THE BISHOP'S OPENING
1.E4 E5 2.BC4

2025

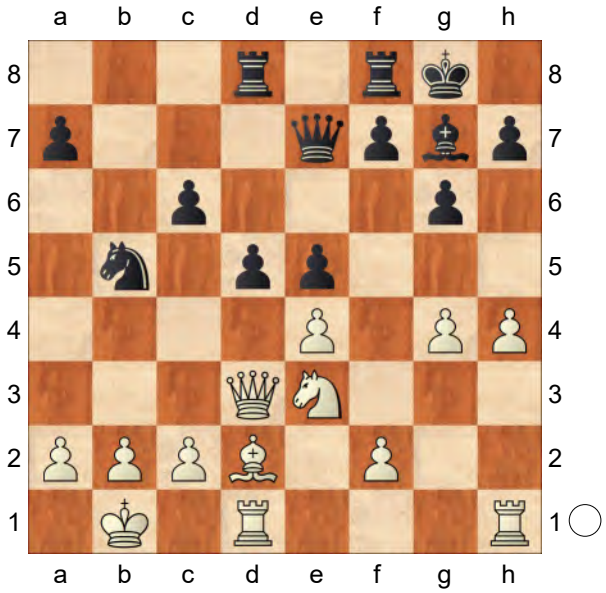
150 ANNOTATED GAMES & THEORY CHESS TABLE

Bishop's Opening

Moves	1.e4 e5 2.Bc4
ECO	C23–C24
Named after	Bishop in 2.Bc4
Parent	Open Game

C23
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** 2798
■ **Martirosyan,Haik M** 2667
Julius Baer GenCup D3 W rapid (1.2)
[Kitty Kat]

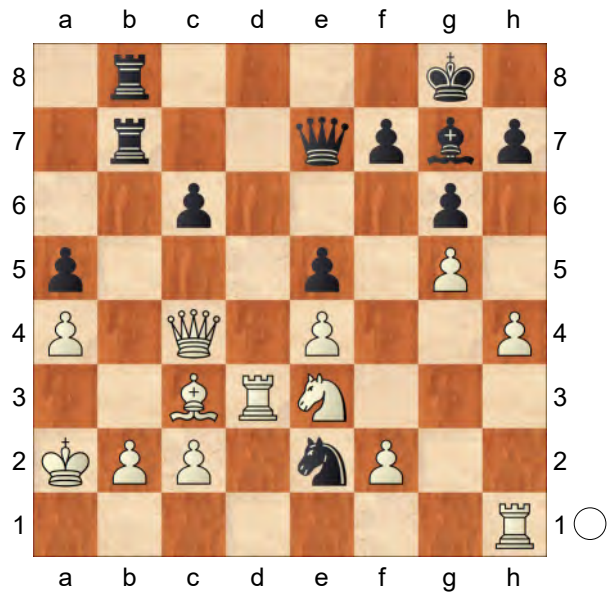
C23: Bishop's Opening: 2...Bc5
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Qf3
[3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Na4 Bb6 8.Nxb6 axb6 9.c3 0-0 10.0-0 exf4 11.Bxf4 Nh5 12.Qd2 Nxf4 13.Qxf4 Bxf3 14.Rxf3 Ne5 15.Rg3 Kh8 16.Bb3 Ra5 17.Rf1 Qe7 Kuijf,M (2465)-Leventic,I (2400) Mitropa Cup 16th 1995 (8) 1-0]
3...Nc6
[3...c6 4.Nc3 g6 5.d3 Bg7 6.h3 0-0 7.g4 d6 8.Nge2 Be6 9.Ng3 b5 10.Bb3 b4 11.Nd1 d5 12.Ne3 a5 13.g5 dxe4 14.dxe4 Nfd7 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Qg4 Qe7 17.Nc4 c5 18.Be3 8.♕c2 a6 9.♖d1 ♕c7 10.î (2359)-Janssen,H (2287) Doeberl Cup 42nd 2004 (5) 1-0]
4.Ne2 d6N
[4...Bc5 5.a3 d6 6.0-0 Bg4 7.Qd3 Nh5 8.h3 Bxe2 9.Qxe2 Nf4 10.Qe1 Nd4 11.Bb3 Nxh3+ 12.Kh2 Qh4 13.g3 Nf3+ 14.Kg2 Nxe1+ 15.Rxe1 Qg4 16.d3 Bxf2 17.Rh1 Qxg3+ 18.Kf1 Bd4 19.Ke2 Chapter Part-Games Chapter Part 3 (8) Qg2+ 20.Kd1 Qxh1+ 21.Kd2 Qg2+ 22.Ke1 Ng1 23.Nc3 Bxc3+ 24.bxc3 Qe2# Otero-Queens Gambit Cd5 Bradford 1888 0-1]
5.h3 g6 6.g4 Be6 7.d3 Bg7 8.Nbc3 The position is equal. **8...Bxc4 9.dxc4 Nd7 10.Bd2 Nc5** 0.26/18
[10...Nd4∓ -0.31/19 11.Nxd4 exd4]
11.0-0-0= Ne6 12.Nd5 Ncd4 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.Qd3 c6 15.Ne3 -0.07/17
[15.Nc3± 0.31/19]
15...Qe7 16.Kb1 Rd8 17.Qa3 0-0 18.h4 b5 19.cxb5 Nxb5 20.Qd3 d5



21.Nxd5! Qb7 22.a4 Nd4 23.Ne3 Rb8 1.44/20 White leaves nothing to chance now.
[Black should try 23...Nf3± 0.57/21 24.Qe2 Nxd2+ 25.Rxd2 Qb4]
24.Bc3± Qe7 25.g5 Rb7 26.Qc4 Rfb8 1.65/19
[26...Qa3± 1.20/19 27.Kc1 Qe7]
27.Ka2+- a5 28.Rd3
[28.Bxa5? Rxb2+ 29.Ka1 Qa3+]
28...Ne2 2.12/20
[⌓28...Ra7 1.76/18 29.Rhd1 *(29.h5 Rab7+-)* 29...Rab7]

(Diagram)

29.b3!
[29.Qxc6 Bf8±]
29...Nd4 30.Rhd1
[30.Bxa5 Bf8 31.b4 Rxb4 32.Bxb4 Rxb4∓]
[30.h5 Qxg5 31.hxg6 *(31.Bxa5 Qf4±)* 31...hxg6]
30...Bf8? 4.99/21



[30...Rd7 2.10/20 31.Ng4 *(31.Bxa5 Ra7+-)* 31...c5 32.Bxa5 Qe6]

31.Rxd4

[31.Bxa5? too greedy. Qa3+ 32.Kb1 Nxb3 33.cxb3 *(33.Rxb3?* is the wrong capture. *Rxb3+ 34.cxb3 Rxb3+-+)* 33...Rxb3+ 34.Rxb3 Rxb3+-+]

31...Qa3+ 32.Kb1 Rxb3+ 33.cxb3 Rxb3+ 34.Kc2 Qa2+ 35.Kd3 Bb4 36.Rd8+ Kg7 37.Rc1 Bxc3 38.Rxc3 Qb1+ 39.Ke2

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.65

1-0

C27

□ **Aravindh,Chithambaram VR 2698**

■ **Artemiev,Vladislav 2701**

Gashimov Memorial Rapid 10th (7)

[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nxe4 4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Bb3 Be7 6.Qxe5 0-0 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Qf4 Na5 The position is equal. **9.0-0 Nxb3 10.axb3 b6 11.Nd5 Bb7N**

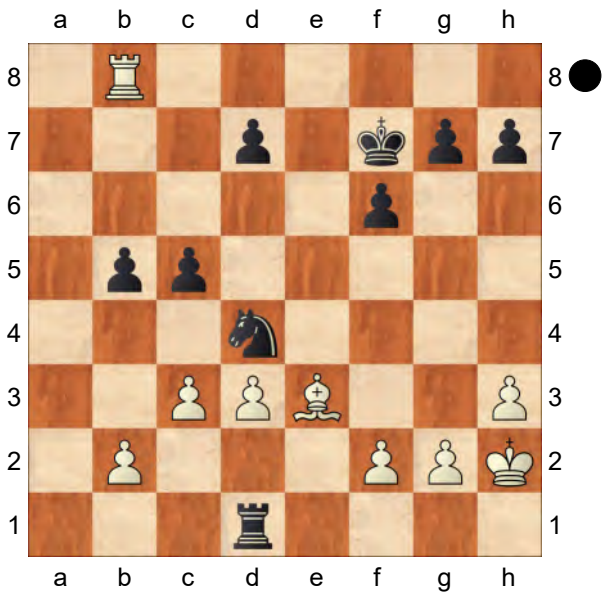
[11...Re8 12.d3 Bf8 13.Qg4 f6 14.Bd2 Bb7 15.Ne3 Qe7 16.h4 Qe6 17.Qf4 Nf7 18.Nf5 Ne5 19.N3d4 Qf7 20.f3 a6 21.Rae1 d6 22.Ne2 Nc6 23.Bc3 Ne7 24.Nxe7+ Rxe7 25.Ng3 Rae8 26.Nf5 Chapter-Games Chapter 9 Game 6 Rxe1 27.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 28.Bxe1 Qe6 29.Bc3 Bc8 30.g4 h5 31.Kf2 Bd7 32.b4 Be8 33.Bd4 Bg6 34.c4 c5 35.bxc5 dxc5 36.Bc3 b5 37.b3 b4 38.Bb2 a5 39.d4 cxd4 40.Nxd4 Bc5 41.gxh5 Shirov,A (2736)-Radjabov,T (2656) Linares 21st 2004 (6) 1-0 Bxh5 42.Kg2 Qe8 43.Qf5 Qg6+ 44.Qxg6 Bxg6 45.Nc6 a4 46.bxa4 Be8 47.Nd4 Bxa4 48.f4 Bd1 49.Kf2 Bb3 50.Kf3 Bxc4 51.f5 Bd5+ Forcen Esteban,D (2569)-Rakhmanov, A (2629) ESP-chT CECLUB Honor 2018 (5.4) 0-1]

12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.Re1 Dodges Qe7-e4 **13...Qd8 14.d3 Re8 15.Bd2 Re6 16.Bc3** Wards off Re6-f6 **16...f6 17.Re3 Qf8 18.b4 Nb5 19.Bd2 Qd6 20.Qg4** Threatens to win with c2-c4. **20...Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Rae8 22.Qh5 Nd4 23.Qd1 Nc6 24.b5 Nd4 25.Rxa7 Nxb5 26.Ra4 Nd4 27.h3 c5 28.Ra6 Qb8 29.c3 Qb7** ...Re6xe3 is the strong threat. **30.Qa4 b5 31.Qa2 Qxa6 32.Qxa6 Rxa6 33.Rxe8+=** Endgame. KRB-KRN **33...Kf7 34.Rb8 Ra1+ 35.Kh2 Rd1 36.Be3**

(Diagram)

Deflection **36...Ne6 37.Rxb5 Rxd3 38.c4 d6 39.g4 g5 40.Kg2 Nd4 41.Rb7+ Kg6 42.Bxd4 Rxd4** KR-KR **43.b3 h5 44.f3 Rd2+ 45.Kg1** -1.23/22

[45.Kf1= -0.18/27 was the only way to



keep the balance.]

45...f5∓ White must now prevent ... h5xg4. **46.b4 hxg4 47.hxg4** -2.71/29

[47.fxg4∓ -1.42/27 fxg4 48.hxg4]

47...fxg4-+ 48.fxg4 Rd4 49.Kf2 Kf6 0.00/38

[49...Rxg4∓ -1.32/25 50.Rb6 Kf7 *(50...Rxc4 51.bxc5 Rxc5 52.Rxd6+ Kh5 53.Rd4=)* 51.Rxd6 cxb4 *(51...Rxc4 52.bxc5 Rxc5 53.Ke2=)*]

50.bxc5= dxc5 51.Kf3 Rf4+ 52.Kg3 Rxc4 53.Rc7 Rc1 54.Kf2? -5.43/26 Black converts the advantage convincingly.

[54.Kf3= -0.01/28 and White has nothing to worry.]

54...Rc4? -0.03/25

[54...Ke5-+ -5.43/26 55.Rf7 Kd4]

55.Ke3? -6.74/28

[55.Kf3= -0.03/25]

55...Ke5!-+ Black is clearly winning.

[55...Rxg4 56.Rc6+ Ke5 57.Rxc5+ Ke6 58.Kd2=]

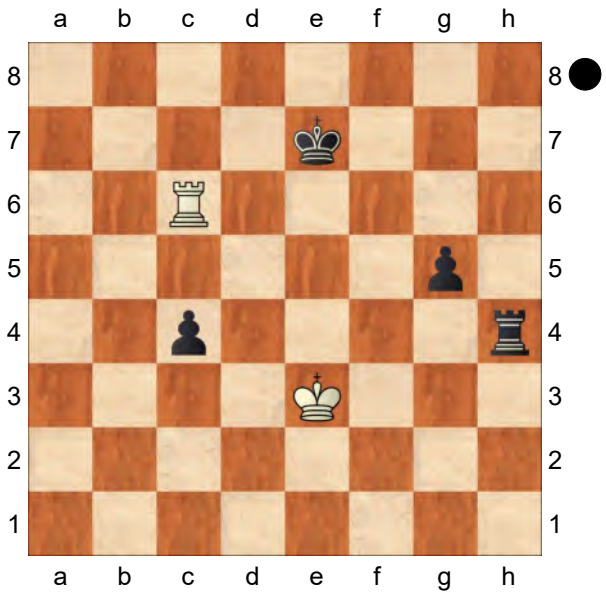
56.Rc8 Rc3+

[56...Rxg4 57.Rxc5+ Kd6 58.Rc2=]

57.Kd2 Rc4 58.Ke3 Kd6

[Weaker is 58...Rxg4 59.Rxc5+ Kf6 60.Ra5=]

59.Rd8+ Kc6 60.Rc8+ Kd7 61.Rg8 Rxg4 62.Rg6 Ke7 63.Kf3 Kf7 64.Rc6 Rf4+ 65.Ke3 c4 66.Ke2 Kg7 67.Ke3 Rh4 68.Kf3 Rd4 69.Ke3 Rf4 70.Ke2 Kf7 71.Ke3 Rh4 72.Kf3 Ke7 73.Ke3



c3! aiming for ...Rh4-h2. **74.Ke2**

[74.Kd3 Rh3+]

74...Rh2+ 75.Kf3 Kd7 76.Rc4 Rh4 77.Rc5 Kd6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.19 (very precise)

0-1

C54

□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2751**

■ **So,Wesley** **2751**

Saint Louis Rapid (2) 12.08.2024

[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3

Inf 83/(278) **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 d6 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6N**

[6...a5 7.Nbd2 c6 8.a4 h6 9.Bb3 b5 10.d4 exd4 11.cxd4 Bb4 12.e5 bxa4 13.Bxa4 dxe5 14.dxe5 Nd5 15.Nc4 Ba6 16.Qc2 Nb6 17.Nxb6

Qxb6 18.Be3 Qc7 19.Rfd1 c5 20.Bf4 Ra7 21.Bg3 Anglo Gruenfeld Defence (2028)-Kepper,G (1548) corr freechess 2014 (6) 1-0 Qb6 22.Rd6 Qb7 23.Rad1 Bb5 24.Rd8 Bxa4 25.Qxa4 Rxd8 26.Rxd8+ Kh7 27.Qc2+ g6 28.e6 Nc6 29.Rd7 Qa6 30.exf7 Rxd7 31.f8Q c4 32.Qe8 Delacroix,J (2028)-Moerschell,S (1548) Monthey op 6th 2015 (6) 1-0]

[6...Bb6 7.Bb3 c6 8.Nbd2 Re8 9.Re1 h6 *(9...Nbd7 10.Nf1 Nf8 11.Ng3 Ng6 12.h3 h6 13.d4 Qc7 14.Bc2 Be6 15.Be3 Rad8 16.Qc1 a6 17.Nf5 Bxf5 18.exf5 Nf8 19.Bxh6 N8h7 20.dxe5 dxe5 21.Be3 Bxe3 22.Qxe3 Nd5 23.Qe4 Nhf6 24.Qh4* E05-E06 Catalan/6 4...Be7-5 Bg2 0-0 6 0-0 dxc4 Intro 1 d4 d5 2 c4 2020 *)* 10.h3 Be6 11.Nf1 Nbd7 12.Ng3 d5 13.Bc2 a5 14.Nh2 dxe4 15.dxe4 Bc5 16.Qf3 a4 17.Nf5 Bxf5 18.Qxf5 Nf8 Yu,S (2522)-Sokolov,I (2659) Wijk aan Zee II 83/(278) 2001]

7.Bg5

[7.h3 h6 8.Re1 a6 9.a4 a5 10.Nbd2 Be6 11.b3 Re8 12.Bb2 d5 13.Bb5 dxe4 14.dxe4 Nh5 15.Nc4 Qf6 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Ncxe5 Bxh3 18.Nd3 Qg6 19.Nh4 Qg5 20.Nxc5 Qxh4 21.gxh3 Qg5+ 22.Qg4 Qxc5 23.c4 Rab8 24.e5 g6 25.Ba3 Qb6 26.e6 c5 27.exf7+ Kxf7 28.Qd7+ Kf8 29.Qd5 Kg7 30.Bxc5 Nf6 31.Bxb6 Nxd5 32.Rxe8 Firouzja,A (2778)-So,W (2771) Sinquefield Cup 9th 2022 (8) 1-0]

7...h6 8.Bh4 a6 8...a5 is the modern continuation .8...a5 ist die moderne Fortsetzung. **9.b4 Ba7 10.Nbd2 Qe7** The position is equal. **11.a4 Be6 12.Bd5!?** A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante. **12...g5 13.Nxg5 Nxd5** 0.70/18

[13...hxg5= 0.00/24 14.Bxg5 Kg7]

14.Nxe6± Qxh4 15.exd5 fxe6 16.g3 Chess con chili.

[16.dxc6 Bxf2+ 17.Kh1 Bg3]

16...Qh3

[16...Rxf2? 17.Rxf2 Qh3 *(17...Bxf2+? 18.Kg2+-)* 18.dxc6+- *(18.d4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 Bxd4+-* Pin *)*]

17.dxc6 White stays focused until the end. **17...Rf5** ...Ra8-f8 is the strong threat. **18.Kh1!**

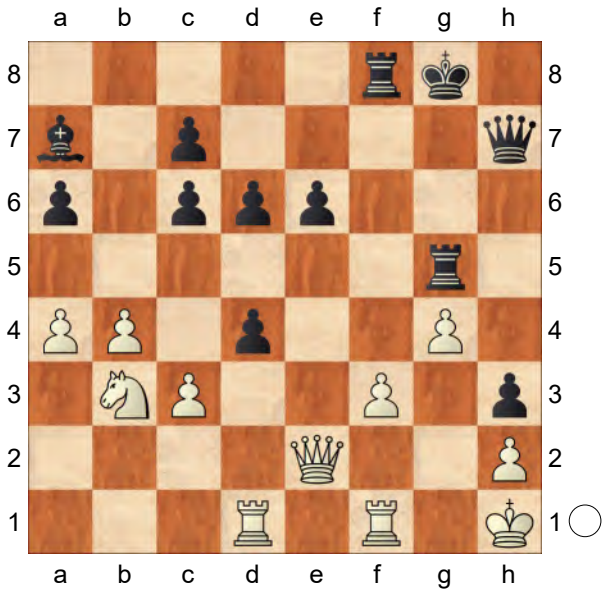
[18.cxb7 Raf8 19.b8R Rxb8∓]

18...bxc6 19.Qe2 Raf8 20.f3

[20.f4?! Kh8=]

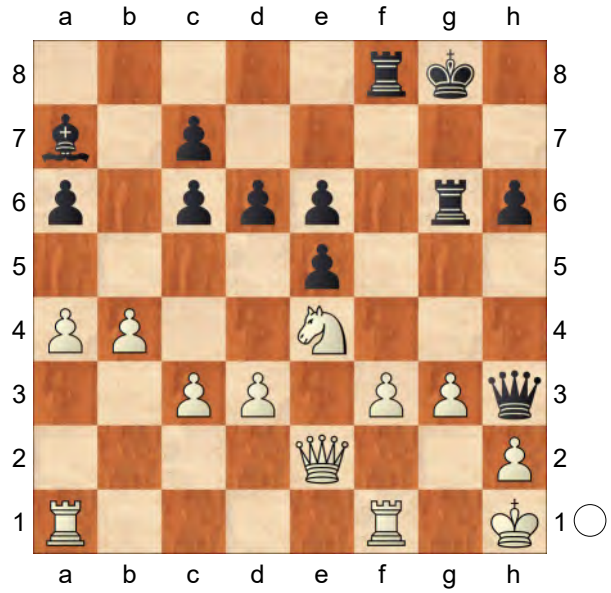
20...Rg5 21.Ne4N

[Vorgänger: 21.Qg2 Qf5 22.Rad1 h5 23.Nb3 0.44/18 *(23.Qe2± 0.82/20)* 23...h4± Hoping for ...h4xg3. 24.g4 Qh7 1.06/20 *(24...Qf4± 0.46/18)* 25.Qe2 0.63/20 *(25.Na5!± 1.06/20)* 25...h3± 26.d4 0.61/21 *(26.Na5!± 1.07/21)* 26...exd4

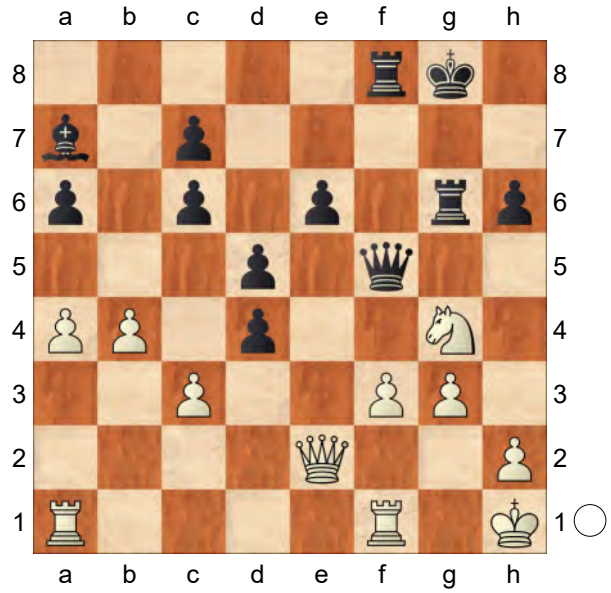


27.cxd4 0.31/20 Firouzja,A (2737)-Carlsen,M (2830) Norway Chess Armageddon 12th rapid 2024 (9) 0-1 *(27.f4!± 0.78/21 Rg6 28.Nxd4 Bxd4 29.Rxd4)*]

21...Rg6 1.79/18
[21...Rh5± 1.10/22]



22.d4!+- d5
[22...h5 23.dxe5]
23.Nf2
[23.Qxa6? dxe4 24.fxe4 Rxf1+ 25.Rxf1 Rxg3-+]
23...Qf5 2.19/25
[23...Qh5 1.78/19 keeps fighting.]
24.Ng4
[24.Qxe5? Qxf3+ 25.Kg1 Qxc3-+]
24...exd4



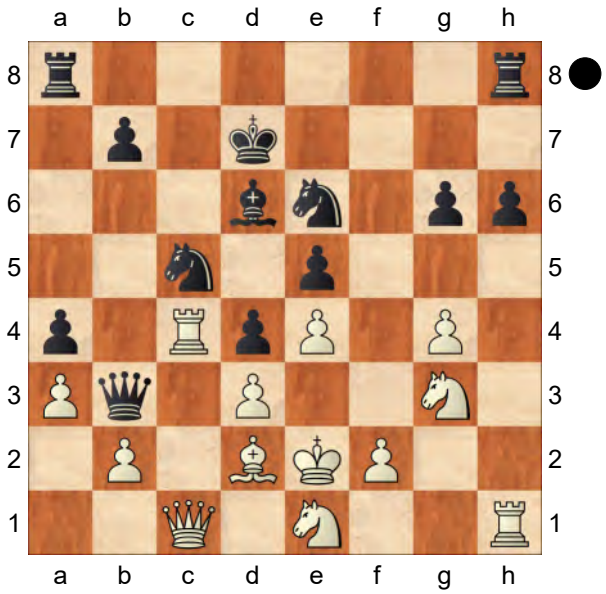
And now ...d4-d3 would win. **25.Ne5**
[25.Qxa6 Rxg4 26.fxg4 *(26.Qxa7 Rxg3 27.Qxd4 e5∓)* 26...Qe4+ 27.Kg1 Ra8=]
25...d3 2.48/20
[⌓25...dxc3 1.76/21 26.Nxc6 *(26.Qxa6? too greedy. Qxe5 27.Qxa7 Rgf6-+)* 26...Kh7]
26.Qxd3
[But not 26.Nxd3?! Qh3]
26...Qxd3 27.Nxd3 c5 28.bxc5 e5 29.Nxe5 Re6 30.f4 c6 31.Rab1 Rfe8 32.Nd7
Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.27 (precise)
1-0

C24

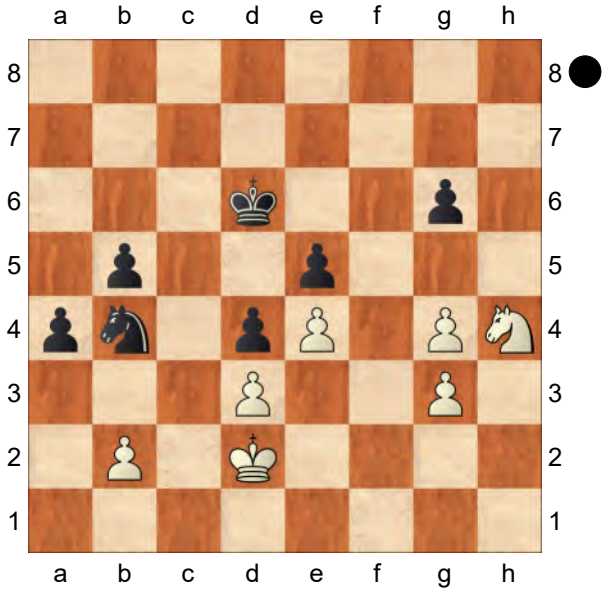
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2802**
■ **Grischuk,Alexander** **2708**
CrunchLab Masters Div 2 L rapid (6.1)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 a5 6.a3 a4 7.Ba2 Bd6 8.Nc3
The position is equal.
[8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Re1 Nbd7 11.Nc3 Qb6 12.exd5 cxd5 13.Rb1 d4 14.Bxe6 dxc3 15.Bxd7 Nxd7 16.bxc3 Qc7 17.Bc1 Qxc3 18.Bb2 Qc7 19.h3 Rfc8 20.Ng5 Be7 21.Nf3 Qxc2 22.Nxe5 Qxd1 Urcun,G (1689)-Bertrand,A (1706) Vitrolles-ch 13th 2012 (2) 0-1]
8...d4 9.Ne2 h6N
[9...c5 10.Ng3 0-0 11.0-0 Nc6 12.h3 h6 13.Nh4 Re8 14.Nhf5 Bf8 15.Nh5 Nxh5 16.Qxh5 Be6 17.Bxe6 Rxe6 18.f4 g6 19.Qg4 Qe8 27. Bishop's Opening-Bishop's Opening 4.Nf3 #01]

10.h3 c5 11.g4 Nc6 12.Ng3 g6 13.c3 -0.38/16
[13.g5= 0.00/18]
13...Qe7 14.cxd4 cxd4 15.Bd2 Be6 16.Bxe6 Qxe6 17.Rc1 Nd7 18.Rc4 Nb6 19.Rc2 Qb3 20.Ke2 Nd7 21.Qc1 Nd8 22.h4 Ne6 23.h5 -0.96/21
[23.Rc4∓ -0.51/20]
23...Ndc5∓ 24.Ne1 Kd7↑ Black is in control. **25.hxg6 fxg6** ...Rh8-c8 would now be deadly. **26.Rc4** -2.06/21
[26.Rxh6∓ -1.00/20 Rxh6 27.Bxh6]



26...Qb5 -0.70/21
[26...Rac8!-+ -2.06/21 27.Rb4 Nxd3 Double Attack *(27...Qa2 28.Qc4∓)* 28.Qxc8+ *(28.Nxd3? Bxb4 29.Qd1 Bxd2-+)* 28...Rxc8 29.Rxb3 Nef4+ 30.Bxf4 Nxf4+ *(30...axb3? 31.Kxd3 exf4 32.Ne2+-)* 31.Kd1 axb3 32.Rxh6 Bxa3 Promotion]
27.Rb4 Qa6 And now ...Ne6-f4+ would win. **28.Qc4 Qxc4 29.Rxc4 b5 30.Rc2 Rac8** -0.41/22
[30...Nb3∓ -1.05/21 31.Rxh6 Nxd2 32.Rxh8 Rxh8 33.Rxd2 b4]
31.Kd1 -0.78/22
[31.Rxh6∓ -0.41/22 Rxh6 32.Bxh6]
31...Be7 32.Rxh6 -1.08/24
[32.Bxh6∓ -0.61/21 might be stronger. Nf4 33.Bxf4 Rxh1 *(33...exf4 34.Rxh8 Rxh8 35.Ne2=)* 34.Nxh1 exf4 35.f3]
32...Rxh6 33.Bxh6 Bh4 -0.01/23
[33...Bg5∓ -0.79/24 34.Bxg5 Nxg5]
34.Bd2 -0.57/23
[34.Nf3!= -0.01/23 Bf6 *(34...Bxg3 35.fxg3 Nxd3 36.Rxc8=)* 35.g5]
34...Bxg3 0.41/23
[34...Re8∓ -0.57/23]
35.fxg3± Rh8 36.Bb4 Na6 37.Nf3 Nxb4 38.axb4= Endgame. KRN-KRN
[38.Nxe5+? Kd6 39.Nf7+ *(39.axb4? Rh1+ 40.Kd2 Rh2+ 41.Kd1 Rxc2-+)* 39...Ke7 40.Nxh8 Nxc2 41.Nxg6+ *(41.Kxc2? Kf6-+)* 41...Kf6-+]
38...Kd6 39.Rh2 -1.52/25 Wards off Rh8-h3
[39.Nh4= -0.01/23]
39...Rxh2∓ 40.Nxh2 KN-KN **40...Nd8 41.Nf3 Nc6 42.Nh4 Nxb4** -0.81/27
[⌓42...Ke6 -1.50/29 43.g5 Nxb4]
43.Kd2



Na6 -0.33/27
[43...Ke6!∓ -1.24/28 ...Ke6-f6 is the strong threat. 44.g5 Na6 *(44...Kf7*

45.Nf3∓) 45.Nxg6 Nc5]

44.Nxg6∓

[44.g5 b4 45.Nf3 *(45.Nxg6? b3-+)* 45...b3-+]

44...b4! Threatens to win with ...b4-b3.

45.g5? -3.07/26

[45.Nh4!= -0.13/26 and White has nothing to worry.]

45...a3? -0.67/18

[45...b3-+ -3.07/26 White must now prevent ...Na6-b4. 46.Kc1 *(46.Nh4? Nb4-+)* 46...Nb4]

46.bxa3 bxa3 47.Kc2 Nb4+ 48.Kb3 a2 49.Kb2 Nxd3+ 50.Kxa2 Nf2 51.Nh4 Nxe4 52.g6 Ke6

[52...Nxg3? 53.g7 Ne2 54.g8Q+- *(54.g8R Kd5+-)*]

53.g7 Nf6

[Weaker is 53...Nxg3 54.g8Q+ *(54.g8R Nf5+-)* 54...Kd6 55.Qxg3 d3 56.Qxd3+ Ke6 57.Kb3 *(57.Ng6 Kf6 58.Qe4 Kg5 59.Nxe5 Kf6 60.Nf3 Kf7 61.Qc6 Kg7 62.Ne5 Kh8 63.Qh6+ Kg8 64.Qg6+ Kh8 65.Nf7#)* 57...Ke7 58.Qg6]

54.Nf3 d3 55.Nd2 Kf7 56.Kb3 Kxg7 57.Kc4 e4 58.Nxe4 -0.68/38 **Nxe4 59.Kxd3 Nxg3** 0.00/94

Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)

[Better is 59...Ng5∓ -0.61/36]

½-½

C27

□ **Aronian,Levon** **2729**

■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2796**

Zagreb Superbet Blitz (9) 13.07.2024

[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 0-0 5.h3

[5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 c6 7.Nf3 d6 8.d4 exd4 9.Nxd4 Nbd7 10.0-0 Ne5 11.Bb3 Ng6 12.Bg3 Re8 13.Re1 a6 14.h3 Nh7 15.Qd2 Qf6 16.Rad1 Ng5 17.Kh1 Nxh3 18.gxh3 Bxd4 19.Qxd4 Qf3+ Langer,S (2490)-Iljiushenok,I (2595) Zenica 1985 (3) ½-½]

[5.f4 d5 6.Nxd5 Be6 7.Qf3 Bxd5 8.Bxd5 Nxd5 9.exd5 Re8 10.Ne2 Nd7 11.c3 Qe7 12.Bd2 e4 13.dxe4 Qxe4 14.Qxe4 Rxe4 15.Kd1 Nb6 16.Ng3 Ree8 17.Kc2 Nxd5 18.Rhe1 Be3 19.f5 Bxd2 Prats Rodriquez,J (1891)-Rocca,H (2124) 38/205 Skopje 1984 (6) 0-1]

5...c6 6.Qf3 b5N

[6...d5 7.Bb3 Bb4 8.Bd2 Be6 9.Nge2 a5 10.a3 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Nbd7 12.Ng3 d4 13.Bd2 Bxb3 14.cxb3 Qb6 15.b4 axb4 16.Bxb4 c5 17.Bd2 Qxb2 18.Ke2 Rxa3 19.Rab1 Qa2 20.Rxb7 c4 21.Rd1 Jeney,E-Anderssen,A (2600) DE 1851 0-1 Rxd3 22.Qf5 Nc5 23.Rc7 c3 24.Nf1 Qa6 25.Ke1 cxd2+ 26.Nxd2 Rxd2 27.Rxd2 Nd3+ 28.Kd1 Qa1+ 29.Ke2 Nf4+ 30.Qxf4 exf4 31.f3 Qg1 32.Kd3 Qe3+ 33.Kc2 Rb8 34.Rd3 Qe2+ 35.Rd2 Qe1 36.Rd1 Sevgi,V-2.c4 e5 (2600) EUCup-qual 1991 0-1]

7.Bb3 a5 8.a3 Black is slightly better.

8...d6 9.Nge2 Be6 10.Ng3 Nbd7 11.Nf5 Bxb3 12.cxb3 Re8 0.00/21

[Black should try 12...Kh8∓ -0.57/19]

13.Bg5=

[13.Bh6!? g6□ *(13...gxh6? 14.Qg3++-)* 14.0-0=]

13...Re6 14.0-0 Nf8 15.Ne2 Hoping for d3-d4. **15...h6 16.Bd2 Ng6 17.Rac1** Prevents d6-d5 **17...Rc8 18.Neg3 Bb6 19.Kh1 d5 20.Rc2 dxe4**

[20...Kh7 is interesting. 21.Rfc1 Rc7 22.Kh2 Rd7]

21.dxe4 Bd4 0.57/18

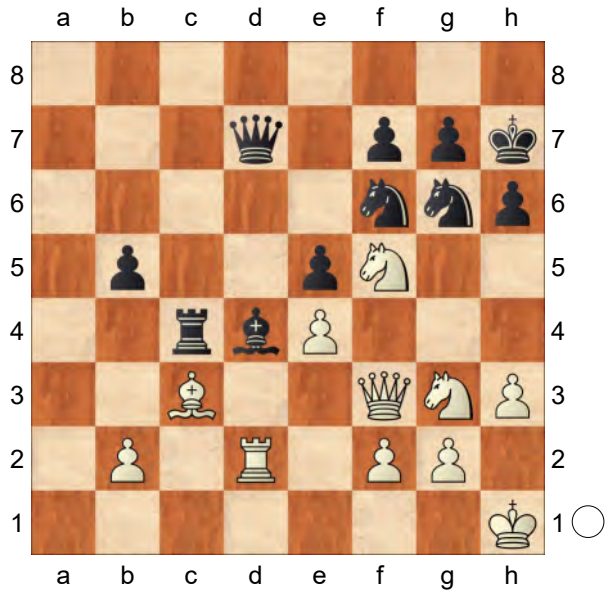
[21...Rc7= 0.03/19]

22.b4 0.14/19

[22.Rfc1± 0.57/18 was preferrable.]

22...axb4 23.axb4 c5 24.bxc5 Rxc5 25.Rfc1 Rxc2 26.Rxc2 Qd7 27.Bb4 Rc6 28.Rd2 Rc4 29.Bc3 And now Nf5xg7! would win. **29...Kh7** 1.73/21

[29...b4± 0.61/25 30.Bxd4 exd4]



30.Ne2 0.30/26

[30.Nxg7!+- 1.73/21 Kxg7 31.Nf5+ Kh7 *(31...Kg8? 32.Nxd4* Discovered Attack *Nxe4 33.Qxe4+-)* 32.Nxd4 Discovered Attack Nxe4 33.Qxe4 exd4 34.Rxd4 *(34.Bxd4 h5±)* 34...Rxd4 35.Bxd4]

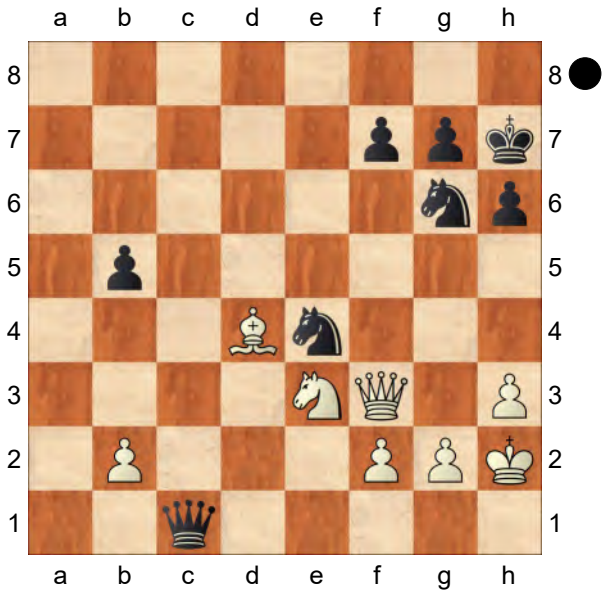
30...Qc6 31.Nexd4

[31.Nfxd4 simplifies exd4 32.Rxd4 Rxd4 33.Nxd4 Qxe4 34.Qxe4 Nxe4 35.Kg1]

31...exd4 32.Rxd4 Nxe4 33.Ne3

[33.Qe3 simplifies Nxc3 34.Rxc4 Qxc4 35.Qxc3 Qxc3 36.bxc3 Nf4 37.Nd6]

33...Rxd4 34.Bxd4 Qc1+ 35.Kh2



White wants to mate with Qf3xf7!

35...Qc7+ 36.g3 Ng5 37.Qf5 Black must now prevent h3-h4! **37...Qc6** Strongly threatening ...Ng5-f3+. **38.Bc3 Nf3+ 39.Kh1 b4↑** Black is pushing. **40.Qxf7?** -2.75/25 **bxc3-+ 41.bxc3 Ng5+ 42.Qd5 Qxc3** 0.00/29

[42...Qxd5+-+ -1.93/27 43.Nxd5 Nxh3]

43.h4= Nh3 44.Qg2 -7.99/21

[44.Qf5= 0.00/22]

44...Qe1+-+ 45.Kh2 Nxf2 46.h5 Qxe3 -26.98/24

[⌓46...Ne5 -#23/29 47.Nf1 Qe2 48.g4 Nf3+ *(48...Nexg4+? 49.Kg1-+)* 49.Kg3 Ne4+ Deflection 50.Kf4 Qxg2 51.Kxe4 Qxf1 52.Ke3 Qd1 53.Kf2 Ng5 *(53...Qd5* is a self mate. *54.Ke3 Ng5 55.Ke2 Qd4 56.Ke1 Qd3 57.Kf2 Ne4+ 58.Kg2 Qg3+ 59.Kh1 Nf2#)* 54.Ke3 Kg8 *(54...Qxg4* leads to mate. *55.Kd3 Qb4 56.Kc2 Qd4 57.Kb3 Ne4 58.Ka2 Qc3 59.Kb1 Nd2+ 60.Ka2 Qc2+ 61.Ka3 Qb3#)* 55.Kf2 Qd2+ *(55...Qxg4 56.Ke3 Qd1 57.Kf2 Qd2+ 58.Kg3 Kh7 59.Kg4*

Qe3 60.Kh4 Qh3#) 56.Kg1 Kf7 57.Kf1 Nh3 58.g5 Qf2#]

47.hxg6+ Black is clearly winning. **47...Kxg6 48.Qc6+ Kh7 49.Qd5 Ng4+ 50.Kh3 Ne5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.33

0-1

C24

□ **Aronian,Levon** **2729**
■ **So,Wesley** **2757**

Crunchlab PlayIn Match D1 rapid (2.4)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Ne2N

[4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3

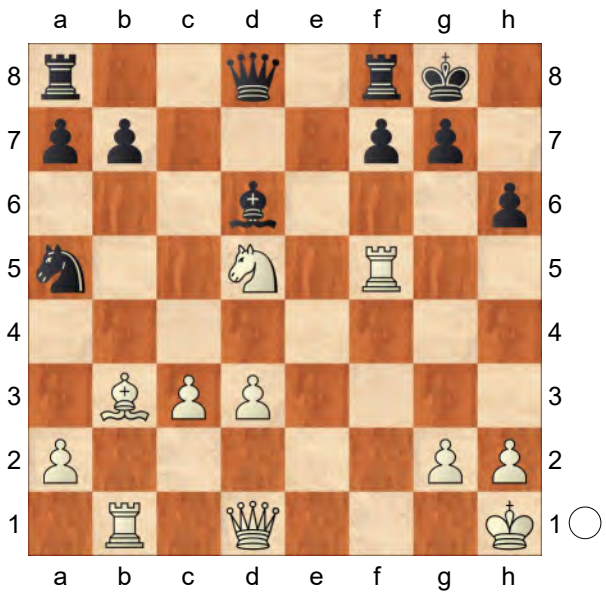
A) 5...Bd6 6.Nc3 dxe4 *(6...d4 7.Ne2 Bg4 8.Ng5 0-0 9.f3 Bh5 10.g4 Bg6 11.h4 h5 12.Ng3 Bb4+ 13.Kf2 Nbd7 14.a3 Ba5 15.Ba2 Rc8 16.Qe2 c5 17.Nf5 a6 18.Rg1 Rc6 19.gxh5 Nxh5 20.f4 Nxf4 21.Bxf4* Andrew,M-Taylor,J BPCTC (4) corr 1998 0-1*)* 7.Ng5 0-0 8.Ncxe4 Nxe4 9.Nxe4 Bf5 10.0-0 Na6 11.Nxd6 Qxd6 12.Qf3 Be6 13.Qg3 Bxb3 14.axb3 Nb4 15.c3 Nxd3 16.Rd1 Rad8 17.Bg5 f6 18.Be3 a6 19.Rd2 Rfe8 20.Rad1 Buchicchio,G (2770)-Hantel,T (2790) 6/656 Amsterdam 1968 (4) ½-½;

B) 5...a5 6.a4 Bd6 7.exd5 cxd5 8.Nc3 Be6 9.Bg5 d4 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Nb5 Bxb3 12.cxb3 Bb4+ 13.Nd2 Nc6 14.f4 Qe7 15.0-0 Bxd2 16.Qxd2 0-0-0 17.Rae1 Kb8 18.Na3 Qb4 19.Qd1 Rhe8 20.fxe5 Kasimdzhanov,R (2657)-Bareev,E (2643) FIDE World Cup 2019 (1.1) 1-0;

C) 5...Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ *(6...Bd6 7.Nc3 dxe4 8.Ng5 0-0 9.Ncxe4 Be7 10.h4 Na6 11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.Qh5 Bxg5 13.hxg5* 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6:-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.*)* 7.Qxd2 0-0 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 f6 10.h3 Be6 11.Nc3 Nf4 12.d4 Bxb3 13.axb3 Na6 14.Ra4 Qd7 15.dxe5 Qxd2 16.Nxd2 fxe5 17.Nc4 Nc5 18.Raa1 Ng6 Askarian,K (2295)-Moskalenko,V (2469) 75/(58) Alushta 1999]

4...d5 5.exd5 cxd5 6.Bb3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Bg5 The position is equal. **8...h6 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Nbc3 Be6 11.f4! exf4 12.Nxf4 0-0 13.Nfxd5 Bxd5 14.Nxd5 Bxb2 15.Rb1 Bd4+ 16.Kh1** aiming for c2-c3. **16...Na5! 17.c3 Be5 18.Rf5 Bd6** 1.56/21

[18...Nxb3± 0.39/19 19.Rxe5 Na5]



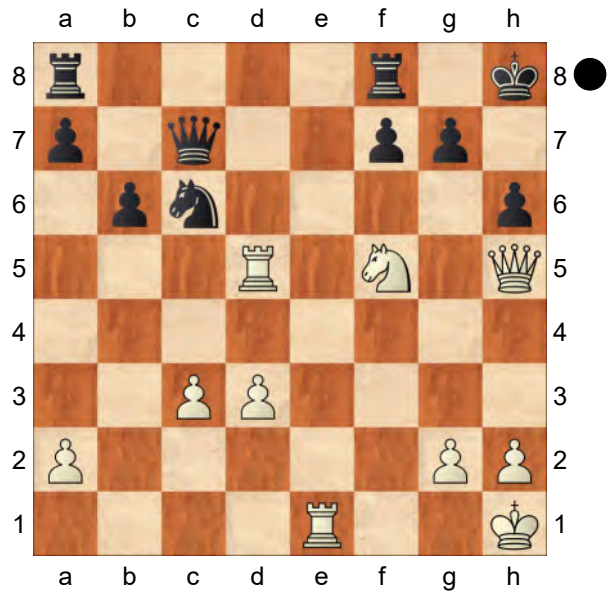
Black is weak on the light squares

19.Nf6+ 0.85/17 **Kh8± 20.Ne4** 0.25/22

[20.Ba4± 0.85/21]

20...Nxb3= 21.Rd5 Qc7 22.Nxd6 Na5 23.Qh5 Nd6-f5 is the strong threat.

23...b6
[23...Nc6!?]
24.Re1 -0.08/22
[24.Rf1± 0.42/21 f6 25.Nf5]
24...Nc6 25.Nf5



Strongly threatening Nf5xh6! **25...Rae8**
26.Rf1 Black must now prevent Nf5xh6!
26...Re6→ Black is up to no good.
[26...Ne7? 27.Nxh6 Ng6 *(27...Nxd5 28.Nxf7+* Discovered Attack (Double Check) *Kg8 29.Qh8#; 27...gxh6 28.Qxh6+ Kg8 29.Rh5)* 28.Nxf7+ *(28.Rxf7? Re1+)* 28...Kg8 29.Rdf5 Qxf7 30.Rxf7+-]
27.Qg4 Rg6 28.Qh3 -0.76/21
[28.Qf4= 0.00/22 keeps the balance. Qxf4 29.Rxf4]
28...Re8 -0.34/20
[28...Ne7∓ -0.76/21 29.Nxe7 Qxe7]
29.Kg1 Ne7 30.Re1? -3.34/23
This move loses the game for White.
[30.Nxe7∓ -0.62/21 Rxe7 31.c4]
30...Nxd5 -1.80/18
[⌓30...Qxc3 -3.34/23 31.Rde5 *(31.Rxe7?* too greedy. *Rxe7 32.Ne3 Rf6-+)* 31...Re6 *(31...Rg5? 32.Qe3+-)*]
31.Rxe8+-+ Kh7 Threatens to win with ...Nd5-f4! **32.Qf3** -2.19/22
[32.Nh4∓ -1.55/23 might work better. Rf6 33.Qc8 Qxc8 *(33...Qxc3 34.Rh8#)* 34.Rxc8]
32...Nf6 33.Rf8 -5.46/19
[33.Re2 -1.87/21 is a better chance.]
33...Qc5+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.56/ Black=0.24 (precise)
0-1

C28
□ **Nihal,Sarin** **2668**
■ **Sindarov,Javokhir** **2668**
London TechM GCL rapid (9.6) 10.10.24
[Kitty Kat]

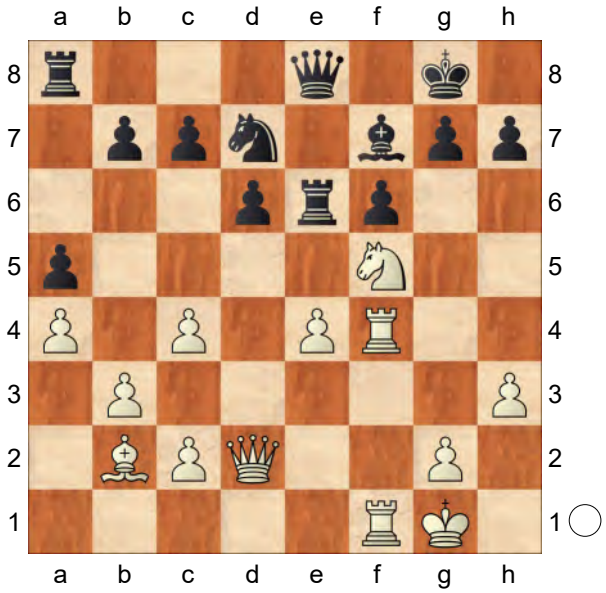
C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d3 Na5 5.Nge2 Nxc4 6.dxc4 Be7 7.0-0 d6 8.Ng3 -0.20/21
[⌓8.b3 0.27/23]
8...0-0N 0.23/25
[⌓8...h5 -0.20/21 9.f4 h4 10.Nf5 Bxf5 11.exf5 c6 12.Be3 Qa5 13.Rb1 e4 14.Bd4 0-0-0 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Nxe4 d5 17.cxd5 Rxd5 18.Qf3 Qxa2 19.Nxf6 gxf6 20.Qc3 Rxf5 21.Ra1 Qd5 22.Rxa7 h3 23.Qf3 Qc5+ Kollars,D (2643)-Huschenbeth,N (2607) 153/118 Magdeburg 2022 0-1 24.Qf2 hxg2 25.Kxg2 Rg8+ 26.Kh1 Qd5+ 27.Qf3 Rxf4 28.Ra8+ Kc7 Bonacker (2643)-Janssen,H (2607) IND-CHN Summit 2015 0-1]
9.h3= is recently more successful than 9. Qd3. ist inzwischen erfolgreicher als 9. Dd3. **9...Be6 10.b3** The position is equal. **10...Nd7 11.a4 Bg5 12.Bb2N** -0.14/19
[12.a5 a6 13.Bxg5 Qxg5 14.Nd5

Rac8 15.Nf5 Threatens to win with f2-f4. Rfe8 0.53/21 (Black should play *15...Kh8*= 0.02/24) 16.Qg4± Qxg4 17.hxg4 Kf8 Repels Nf5-e7 18.f3 Mitkov,N (2526)-Becerra Rivero,J (2557) USA tt ICC INT rapid 2009 (2) 0-1]

[12.a5 0.29/21 deserves consideration.]

12...a5= 13.Nce2 Re8 14.f4 exf4 15.Nxf4 Bxf4 16.Rxf4 f6 17.Qd2 Bf7 18.Raf1 Re6 19.Nf5 Qe8 0.44/20

[19...Ne5!= 0.00/20 is more appropriate.]



20.c5 -0.04/21 **dxc5 21.Qc3** -0.50/21

[21.Rd1= 0.00/19 Nb6 22.Qf2]

21...Raa6∓

[21...Rxe4?! 22.Nxg7 Kxg7 23.Rxf6 Nxf6 24.Qxf6+ Kf8 25.Bc1±]

22.e5 -1.27/23 **Nxe5∓**

[22...Rxe5 23.Qg3 Bg6 24.Bxe5 Nxe5 25.Qc3±]

23.Qxc5 Rac6 24.Qf2 Ng6! 25.Rg4 Re2 26.Qd4 Rcxc2 -0.25/17

[26...Rexc2 27.Nxg7 Kxg7 28.Rxf6±]

[Black should try 26...b6∓ -1.13/18 27.Rf2 Re5 *(27...Rcxc2 28.Nxg7* Decoy *Kxg7 29.Qxf6+ Kf8 30.Qg7+ Ke7 31.Qf6+ Kf8 32.Qg7+ Ke7 33.Qf6+ Kd7 34.Qxf7+ Qxf7 35.Rxf7+ Ke6 36.Rxh7=)*]

27.Nxg7!= Remove Defender, Decoy

27...Qc6→ Black is up to no good.

28.Qd8+ Be8! Really sharp!

[28...Kxg7 29.Bxf6+]

29.Kh1 -3.90/23 This costs White the game. **29...Rxb2 30.Nf5 Qe6**

[30...Kh8 31.Nd4 Qb6 32.Nxe2 Rxe2 33.Qxf6+ Qxf6 34.Rxf6-+]

31.Qxc7 Qd7

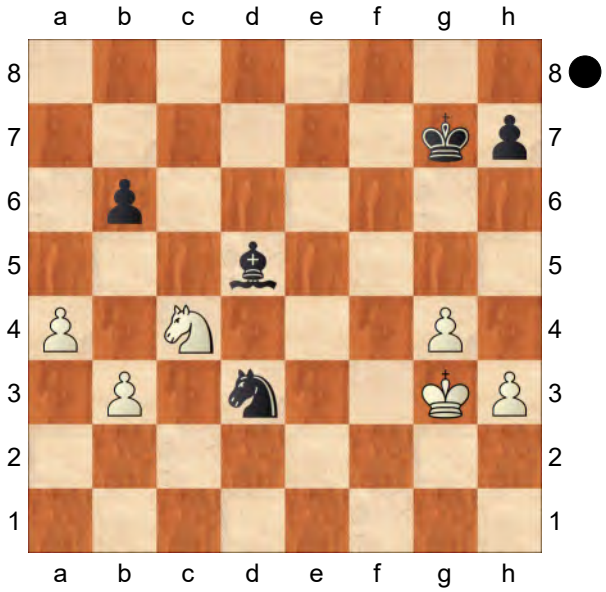
[31...Rxb3 32.Qg7#]

32.Qc3 Rf2 33.Rxf2 Rxf2 34.Ne3 Qe6 35.Kg1 Rf4 36.Rg3 Qe5 37.Qxe5 fxe5 38.Nc4 Bc6 39.Nxe5 Kg7 40.Nc4 Rf5 41.Re3 Nf4 42.g4 Rd5 43.Kh2 -4.60/20

[⌓43.Kf2 -3.09/18]

43...Rd3-+ Black is clearly winning.

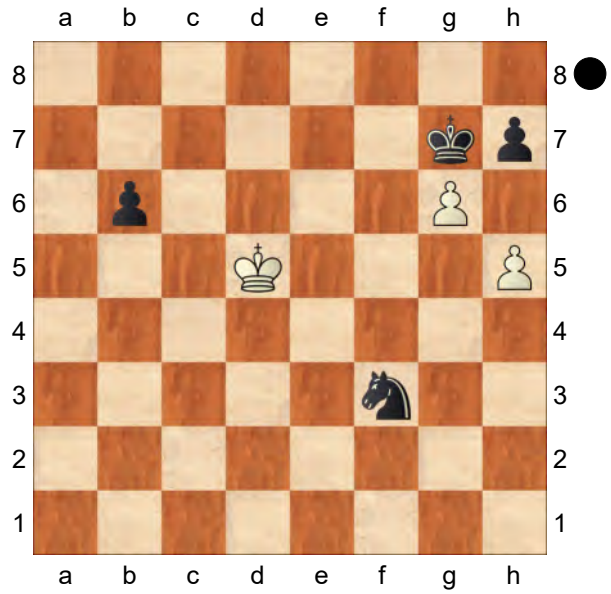
44.Rxd3 Nxd3 45.Nxa5 Bd5 46.Kg3 b6 47.Nc4



Bxc4 48.bxc4 Endgame. KN-KP

48...Nc5 49.Kf4 Kf6 50.g5+ Kg6 51.h4 Nxa4 KN-K3P **52.Kg4 Nb2 53.h5+ Kg7 54.Kf5 Nxc4 55.Ke6 Nd2**

56.Kd5 Nf3 57.g6



h6!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.71/ Black=0.18 (very precise)

[Inferior is 57...hxg6 58.hxg6 Kh8 *(58...Kxg6 59.Kc6=)* 59.g7+ *(59.Kc6 Kg7=)* 59...Kh7 *(59...Kxg7 60.Kc6=)* 60.Kc6=]

0-1

C24

□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2802**
■ **Fedoseev,Vladimir1** **2687**

CrunchLab Masters Div 2 L rapid (5.2)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bd6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Qe2N -0.41/19

[7.exd5= 0.04/18 cxd5 *(7...Nxd5 8.Bxd5 cxd5 9.Nxd5 Nc6 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Ne3 Bh5 12.Nf5 Qd7 13.Ng3 Bg6 14.Nh4 f5 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.f3 Rad8 17.Ne2 e4 18.fxe4 fxe4 19.Bf4 Bc5+ 20.Kh1 exd3 21.Qxd3 Qxd3 22.cxd3* Vlassov,N (2283)-Paravyan,D (2601) Titled Tue 16th May Late blitz 2023 (7) 0-1*)* 8.Bg5 d4 9.Ne4 Bb4+ 10.Ned2 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3 Bg4 13.a3 Ba5 14.Qe2 Nc6 15.0-0-0 Re8 16.h4 Kg7 17.hxg5 hxg5 18.Rh2 Nd5 19.Rdh1 Bf5 20.Nxg5 Qxg5 21.Bxd5 Rad8 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.b4 Beshukov,S (2430)-Neverov,V (2560) RUS-Cup01 Chigorin Memorial 1997 (2) ½-½ e4 24.Rh5 Qg6 25.Rh7+ Kf8 26.Rh8+ Ke7 27.Rxe8+ Rxe8 28.bxa5 e3 29.Nc4 c5 30.Qf3 Bxd3 31.Ne5 Qe6 32.Nxd3 Sokolov,I (2625)-Timman,J (2635) NED-ch53 Rotterdam 1998 (4) ½-½]

[7.0-0 dxe4 8.Ng5 Bg4 9.Qd2 exd3 10.Qxd3 Bc7 11.Qxd8 Bxd8 12.Nge4 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Na6 14.Be3 Bc7 15.f3 Bf5 16.Rad1 Rfd8 17.a4 Rxd1 18.Rxd1 Kf8 19.Kf2 Ke7 20.Ke2 Be6 21.Bxe6 Kxe6 Bellmann,H (2401)-Curtacci,S (2189) corr AO-00025 2023 ½-½]

7...dxe4 -0.05/20

[7...d4∓ -0.41/19 8.Nb1 Bg4]

8.dxe4 h6 The position is equal. **9.h3 b6** 0.34/19

[9...b5= -0.11/18]

10.g4± Ba6 11.Bc4 0.00/19

[11.Qd2± 0.70/20]

11...b5 12.Bd3 b4 13.Nd1 Bxd3 14.cxd3 Nbd7 15.Ne3 Nc5 16.0-0 Bc7 17.Rd1 Ne6 18.Nf5 c5 19.Be3 h5 0.40/20

[19...Rb8= 0.01/18]

20.Kh1 -0.07/19

[20.Ng5!± 0.40/20]

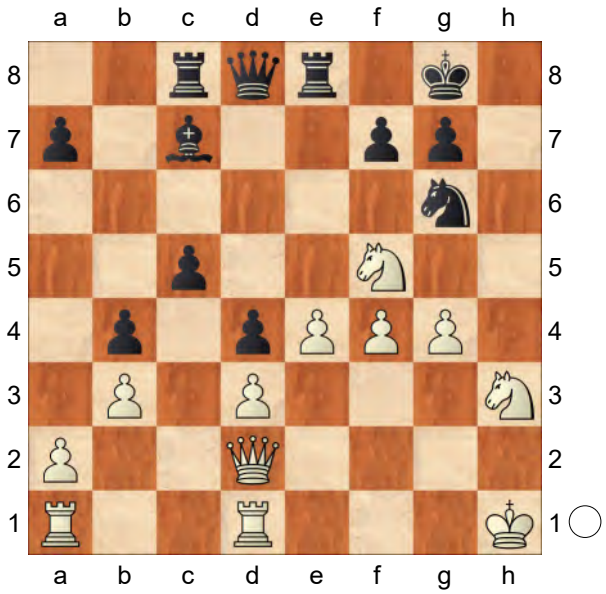
20...hxg4 21.Ng5 -0.52/16

[21.hxg4= -0.16/19 is more appropriate. g6 *(21...Nxg4 22.Rg1±)* 22.Qf1]

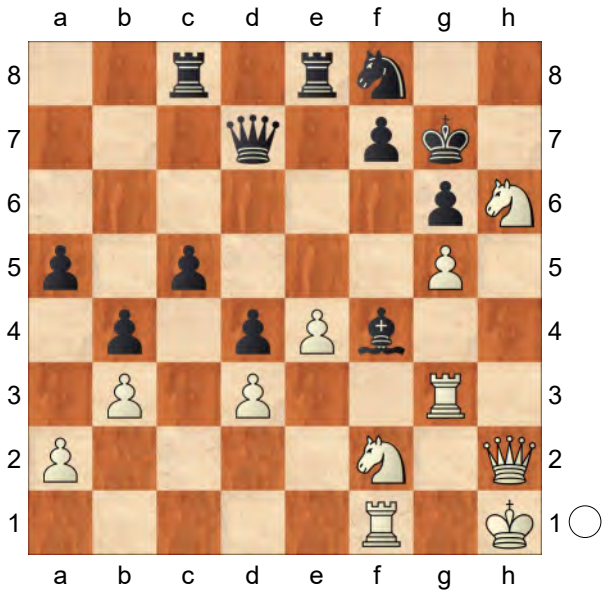
21...Nd4 -0.13/21

[21...a5∓ -0.52/16]

22.Bxd4= exd4 23.hxg4 Nd7
[23...Bf4 24.Nh3 Bc7 25.Rg1±]
24.Qd2 Ne5 0.50/20
[24...g6= 0.01/20 deserves consideration.]
25.f4± Qd2-h2 is the strong threat.
25...Ng6! 26.Nh3↑ Black is under pressure. **26...Rc8** 0.63/17
[Better is 26...Kh7!= 0.12/18]
27.b3 White is more active. **27...Re8** 0.92/18
[27...Kh7± 0.48/18]



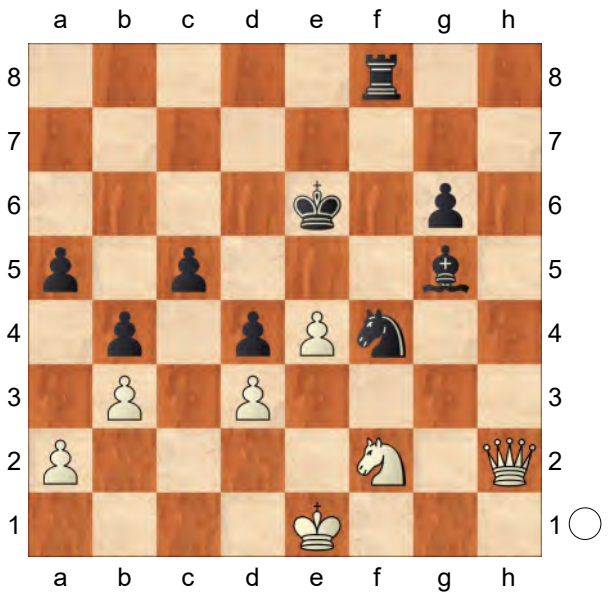
28.Rg1 0.36/18
[28.Rac1!± 0.92/18]
28...Bb8 1.18/20 Black is on the road to losing.
[28...a5!± 0.36/18]
29.Raf1 a5 2.05/22
[29...Kh7± 1.03/19 30.Rg2 a5]
30.Rg3 Qd7? 3.04/20
[30...Rc6± 1.38/18 was necessary. 31.Qh2 f6]
31.Qh2+- Nf8 32.g5? 1.13/18
[32.Ng1+- 2.88/18 is more deadly.]
32...g6? 3.61/18
[32...c4± 1.13/18]
33.Nh6+ Kg7 34.Nf2 Bxf4



35.Nfg4! Threatens to win with Nh6-f5+.
35...Bxg5 36.Rxf7+ Qxf7 37.Nxf7 Kxf7 38.Qh8 Hoping for Ng4-e5+.
38...Ke7 39.Qe5+ Ne6 40.Rh3 Inhibits Re8-h8. **40...Rf8 41.Rh7+ Rf7 42.Rxf7+ Kxf7 43.Kg1** aiming for Qe5-d6. **43...Rd8** 2.53/21
[⌓43...Re8 1.87/20 44.Qd5 Kg7 45.Qd7+ Re7]
44.Kf1 Ke7 45.Qh2 And now Qh2-h7+ would win. **45...Rf8+ 46.Ke1** Black must now prevent Ng4-e5. White has strong compensation. **46...Nf4 47.Nf2 Ke6** 2.63/21
[47...Ne6 1.94/21 was worth a try. 48.e5 Nf4]

(Diagram)

48.Kd1! Nh5 3.75/26
[⌓48...Kd6 2.64/19 49.Ng4 Rf7]
49.Qg2 Be3 4.73/21
[49...Kf6 3.02/21 is a better defense. 50.e5+ Kg7]
50.Qxg6+ White is clearly winning.
50...Kd7 7.05/22
[⌓50...Ke7 4.40/21 51.Nh3



(51.Qxh5 Rxf2 52.Qxc5+ Kf6+-) 51...Rf1+ 52.Ke2 *(52.Kc2 Nf4+-)* 52...Nf4+ 53.Nxf4 Rf2+ 54.Ke1 Rxf4]

51.Qxh5 Rxf2 52.Qxc5 Rxa2

Endgame. KQ-KRB **53.e5**

[53.Qa7+ Ke6 54.Qc5 *(54.Qb6+ Ke5+-)* 54...Kf6+-]

53...Rd2+ 10.02/26

[⌓53...Ra1+ 4.82/23 54.Ke2 Ra2+ 55.Kf3 Rf2+ 56.Ke4 a4 57.bxa4 *(57.Qxb4 axb3 58.Qxb3 Rf1+-)* 57...b3 58.Qb5+ Kc8]

54.Ke1 Ke6 55.Qd6+

[55.Qxa5 Rc2±]

55...Kf5 56.e6 Threatening mate with e6-e7. **56...Bg5 57.e7 Rxd3 58.e8Q Re3+**

(Diagram)

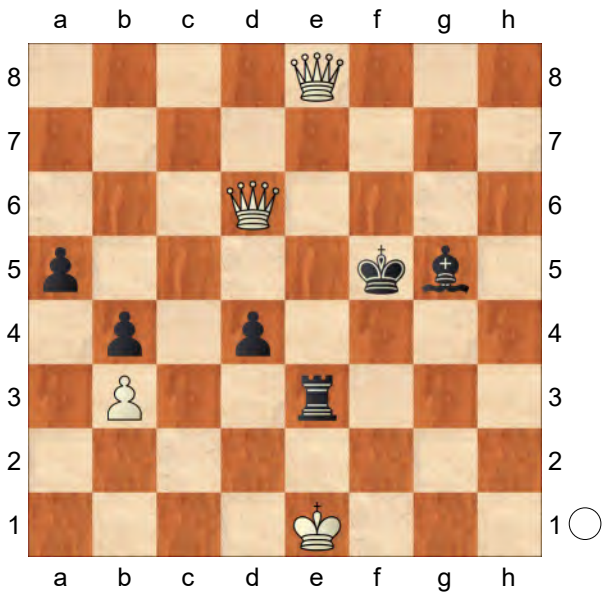
59.Qxe3!! Bxe3

[59...dxe3 60.Qd5+]

60.Qd5+ Kf4 61.Ke2

Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.46

1-0



C24

□ **Nakamura,Hikaru 2802**

■ **Paravyan,David 2620**

Titled Tuesday intern op 17th Sep Early blitz (7)

[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Be7

[3...c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 a5 8.a3 a4 9.Ba2 0-0 10.Nxe5 Qe7 11.f4 dxe4 12.Nc3 exd3 13.cxd3 Be6 14.Bxe6 Qxe6 15.0-0 Nbd7 16.Rae1 Nakamura,H (2788)-Paravyan,D (2612) Titled Tuesday intern op 13th Feb Late blitz 2024 (10) ½-½]

4.Nc3 0-0 5.f4 exf4

[5...d6 6.f5 Nc6 7.a3 Nd4 8.Nf3 c6 9.Ba2 Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 Qb6 11.g4 Ne8 12.h4 Nc7 13.g5 Bd8 14.Rb1 Kh8 15.h5 Nb5 16.Nxb5 Qxb5 17.g6 Bf6 18.h6 Annand,W-Tan,G ENG corr England 1995 1-0]

6.Bxf4 c6 is recently more successful than 6...d6.ist inzwischen erfolgreicher als 6...d6. **7.e5 Ne8 8.d4N**

The position is equal.
[8.Nf3 d5 9.exd6 Nxd6 10.Bb3 Nd7 11.d4 Nb6 12.0-0 Bg4 13.Qd3 Bf5 14.Qe2 Bg4 15.Rad1 Bf6 16.Qf2 Bh5 17.d5 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Bxc3 19.dxc6 Bb4 20.cxb7 Rb8 21.Qc6 Rxb7 22.Rxd6 Bxd6 Be7,E-N,N 23.Qxb7 Bc5+ 24.Kh1 Black Plays Nf6-Be7,E]
8...d5 9.Bd3
[9.Bb3 simplifies f6 10.Nf3 fxe5 11.Bxe5 Bg4 12.0-0]
9...c5 10.Qh5N
[10.Nf3 Nc7 11.dxc5 Nd7 0.51/18 *(11...Bg4= 0.13/18 is superior.)* 12.Qd2 *(12.b4!?)* 12...Nxc5 13.0-0-0 b5 14.Nd4 b4 15.Nce2! Qe8 16.Kb1 Berescu,A (2494)-Duzhakov,I (2316) EU-ch 13th Plovdiv 2012 (3) 1-0]
[10.dxc5!? Nc6 11.Qd2=]
10...g6 11.Qh6 Hoping for Ng1-f3.
11...c4 12.Be2 Ng7 13.g4! Nc6 14.0-0-0 Ne6 0.43/20
[14...f5!= -0.18/19 15.exf6 Bxf6]
15.Be3± Ncxd4 16.h4 -0.10/20
[16.Rxd4 Nxd4 17.h4 Nxe2+ 18.Ngxe2 f6-+ *(18...Bxg4 19.h5∓)*]
[16.Bf3± 0.64/21 Nc6 17.Bxd5 *(17.Nxd5 Nxe5∓)*]
16...Bc5? 1.73/20
[16...Nxe2+!= -0.10/20 17.Ngxe2 Re8 18.Nxd5 *(18.Rxd5 Bf8=)* 18...Bf8 19.Nf6+ Qxf6 20.exf6 Bxh6 21.Bxh6 Nc7]
17.Kb1? -0.29/18
[17.Bxd4+- 1.73/20 Nxd4 *(17...Bxd4? 18.Nf3+-)* 18.Rxd4 Bxd4 19.Nf3]
17...Re8!= And now ...Bc5-f8 would win.
18.Bxd4 Bxd4
[18...Nxd4 19.Nf3 Bf8 *(19...Bxg4? 20.Ng5+-)* 20.Qf4 Nxe2 21.Nxe2±]
19.Nf3 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Qb6+ 21.Kc1 -0.75/19
[21.Ka1= -0.30/20 deserves consideration.]
21...Qa5? 1.03/22
[21...Qc5∓ -0.75/19 stays on course. 22.h5 g5]
22.h5 0.01/21
[22.Ng5± 1.03/22 Nf8 *(22...Qxc3 23.Qxh7+ Kf8 24.Qxf7#)* 23.h5 Qxc3 24.hxg6 *(24.Rxd5? Qa1+* Skewer, Double Attack *25.Kd2 Qxh1-+)* 24...fxg6 *(24...Qe3+ 25.Rd2=)* 25.Rdf1 *(25.Nxh7 Qa3+ 26.Kd2 Qb4+ 27.Kc1 Qa3+ 28.Kd2 Qb4+ 29.Kc1 Qa3+=; 25.Rxd5 Rxe5 26.Bxc4 Qxc4=)* 25...Qa1+ *(25...Qxe5 26.Rxf8+* Remove Defender *Rxf8 27.Qxh7#)* 26.Kd2 Qd4+ 27.Ke1 *(27.Bd3? c3+ 28.Kc1 Qe3+ 29.Kb1 Qb6+ 30.Kc1 Qb2+ 31.Kd1 Bxg4+ 32.Ke1 Rxe5+ 33.Kf2 Re7-+)* 27...Qa1+ 28.Kd2 Qd4+ 29.Kc1 *(29.Bd3? c3+ 30.Kc1 Qe3+ 31.Kb1 Qb6+ 32.Kc1 Qb2+ 33.Kd1 Bxg4+ 34.Ke1 Rxe5+ 35.Kf2 Re7-+)*]
22...Qa3+ 0.89/21
[22...Re7= 0.01/21 23.hxg6 fxg6]
23.Kd2? -0.88/19 White is more active.
[23.Kb1± 0.89/21 aiming for h5xg6. Nf8 24.hxg6 *(24.Rxd5 Qxc3 25.hxg6 Qb4+ 26.Ka1 Qc3+ 27.Kb1 Qb4+ 28.Ka1 Qc3+ 29.Kb1=)* 24...fxg6 25.Rdf1 *(25.Rxd5 Qxc3 26.Ng5 Rxe5=; 25.Ng5 Re6±)*]
23...Qf8∓
[23...Qxa2 24.hxg6 Ng7 25.gxf7+ *(25.gxh7+ Kh8+-; 25.Qxh7+ Kf8+-)* 25...Kf8 26.fxe8N *(26.fxe8Q+ Kxe8 27.Qxg7 Qa3 28.Rxh7 Qf8 29.Rh8 Qxh8 30.Qxh8+ Kd7 31.Qg7+ Kc6; 26.Qxg7+ Kxg7 27.fxe8Q Qxc2+*

Decoy *28.Kxc2 Bf5+ 29.gxf5 Rxe8 30.Rdg1+ Kh8)* 26...Kxe8 27.Qxg7 Qa3 28.Rxh7 *(28.Qxh7 Qf8+-)*]

24.Qe3 Qc5 -0.22/20

[24...b5∓ -1.02/20 White must now prevent ...b5-b4. 25.Rh2 Rb8]

25.hxg6= Qxe3+

[25...fxg6 keeps more tension. 26.Nd4 Re7 27.Rdf1 Nxd4 28.cxd4 Qb4+]

26.Kxe3 Strongly threatening g6xf7+.

26...hxg6 White should prevent ...Ne6-c7. **27.Rxd5 Nc7 28.Rc5 Re7 29.Rxc4** -0.29/22

[⌓29.g5 0.23/21]

29...Be6 0.14/19

[⌓29...b5 -0.29/22 30.Rd4 Kg7]

30.Rd4 Bxa2? 1.81/22

[30...Bd5= 0.27/19]

31.c4!+- b5 32.cxb5 Bd5 33.c4! Bxf3 34.Bxf3

[34.Kxf3 Rxe5 35.Re4 Rae8 36.Rxe5 Rxe5±]

34...Rxe5+ 35.Kf2 1.19/22

[White should play 35.Re4+- 1.64/21 Rc5 36.Ra1]

35...Rae8 2.29/21

[35...Rc8± 1.19/22 was worth a try.]

(Diagram)

36.Ra1! Ne6 37.Rd7 1.49/20

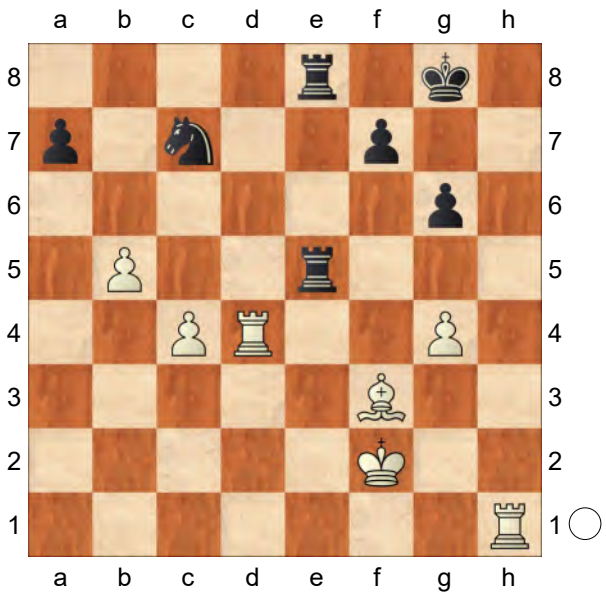
[37.Rd5+- 2.73/21 Nc5 38.Rxe5 *(38.Rxa7 Ne4+ 39.Bxe4 Rxe4±)* 38...Nd3+ 39.Kg3 Nxe5 40.Rxa7 Nxc4 41.Bd5]

37...Nf4? 4.13/21

[37...Ng5± 1.49/20]

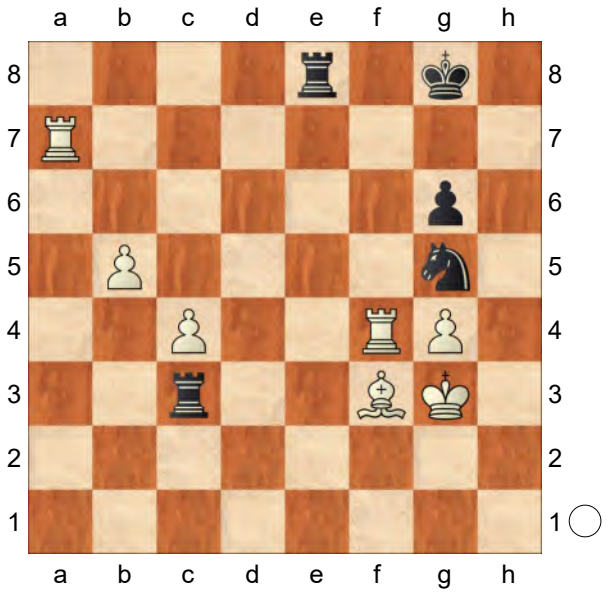
38.Raxa7 Nh3+ 39.Kg3? 0.92/22

[39.Kg2+- 3.80/22 is the precise move to win. Ng5 40.Ra8 *(40.b6 Kg7+-)* 40...Rxa8 41.Bxa8]



39...Re3± ...Nh3-g5 would now be deadly. **40.Rxf7! Ng5 41.Rf4** Kg3-g2 is the strong threat. **41...Rc3?** 4.12/21

[41...Rb3± 1.42/21]



42.b6!+- Ree3 9.19/26

[⌓42...Rb8 4.27/22 43.c5 Kh8]

43.b7 Rxf3+ 44.Rxf3 Rxf3+ 45.Kg2 7.15/26

Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.57

[⌓45.Kh4 #15/24 Nf7 46.b8Q+

(46.b8B Rc3=) 46...Kh7 47.Qe5 Rf2 48.Qd6 Rf1 49.Qf8 *(49.Qd5 Kh6 50.c5 g5+ 51.Kg3 Rf6 52.c6 Rf1 53.Re7 Kg7)* 49...g5+ 50.Kg3]
1-0

C24
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru 2802**
■ **Yoo,Christopher Woojin 2603**
Titled Tuesday intern op 17th Sep Late blitz (6)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bd6 6.Nc3 h6 7.0-0 dxe4 8.Nxe4 Nxe4 The position is equal.
9.dxe4 0-0N
[9...Qf6 10.Be3 0-0 Quickstarter-Bishop,S]
[9...Qe7 10.Be3 Nd7 11.Nh4 g6 12.f4 Bc5 13.Bxc5 Nxc5 14.Bxf7+ Qxf7 15.Qd6 Ne6 16.Qxe5 0-0 17.f5 gxf5 18.exf5 Qg7 19.Rae1 Qxe5 20.Rxe5 Nc7 21.Rd1 Re8 22.Rxe8+ Nxe8 23.g4 Nf6 24.Rd8+ Fedoseev,V (2706)-Najer,E (2667) RUS-chT 25th 2018 (2.3) 1-0]
10.Qe2
[10.Nh4 is more complex. Na6 11.Qh5 Nc5 12.Nf5]
10...Qf6 11.h3 Na6 12.a3 Nc5 13.Ba2 Be6 14.Bxe6 Qxe6 15.Nh4 Rfd8 16.b3 Bf8 17.Bb2 a5 18.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 19.Rxd1 a4 20.b4 Nd7 21.Nf3 -0.31/20
[21.Nf5= 0.27/20]
21...f6 0.43/22
[21...b5∓ -0.31/20]
22.Nh4 Nb6 23.Nf5 Kh7 24.Ne3
[24.Bc1 looks sharper. Nc4 25.Qd3 b5 26.Qd7]
24...c5! 25.c3 cxb4 26.cxb4 Rc8 27.Rd3 Qa2 28.Kh2 Qe6 29.h4 -0.23/21
[⌓29.Bc3 0.29/21]
29...Kg8 0.63/22
[29...Nc4= -0.23/21]
30.h5± Kh7 31.Nf5 Nc4 32.Rg3 -0.01/22
[32.Bc1± 0.47/22]
32...Nd6 33.Nxd6 Bxd6 34.Bc3 Bf8 0.19/21
[34...Bb8 -0.18/22 might be stronger.]
35.Qf3 -0.26/22
[35.Rd3 0.19/21 is superior.]
35...b5= 36.Bd2 Rc2 37.Qd3 Rc4 38.Be3 Qf7 39.Rh3 Qb7 40.Qd8 Qf7 41.Qa8 -0.37/25
[41.Qd3= -0.01/23 should be considered.]
41...Bd6∓ 42.Qa6 Qd7 43.Qa8 Qg4 0.55/26
[Black should try 43...Bf8∓ -0.38/23]
44.Qd5!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)
1-0

C24
□ **Firouzja,Alireza 2738**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus 2830**
Chess.com Classic Div 1 W rapid (5.3)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bd6 6.Nbd2 -0.53/24
[White should play 6.Nc3= 0.01/20 dxe4 7.Ng5 0-0 8.Ncxe4 Nxe4 *(8...Be7 9.Nxf6+ Bxf6 10.Qh5 Bxg5 11.Bxg5 Qd6 12.0-0 Be6 13.Rfe1 Bxb3 14.axb3 f6 15.Be3 Na6 16.Ra4 Nb4 17.Qg4 Nd5 18.Bd2 c5*

19.Qe4 a6 20.c4 Nb6 21.Ra5 Rf7 22.b4 cxb4 23.c5 Kabanov,N (2500)-Kaniansky,M (2205) 26th European Club Cup 2010 (1.6) 1-0*)* 9.Nxe4 Bf5 10.0-0 Na6 11.Nxd6 Qxd6 12.Qf3 Be6 13.Qg3 Bxb3 14.axb3 Nb4 15.c3 Nxd3 16.Rd1 Rad8 17.Bg5 f6 18.Be3 a6 19.Rd2 Rfe8 20.Rad1 e4 21.Qxd6 Buchicchio,G (2770)-Hantel,T (2790) 6/656 Amsterdam 1968 (4) ½-½]

6...0-0 7.0-0 Re8N

[7...a5 8.a4 Nbd7 9.c3 b6 10.Re1 Re8 11.Nf1 Nc5 12.Bc2 dxe4 13.dxe4 Ba6 14.Ng3 Qc7 15.Bg5 Be7 16.Qb1 h6 17.Be3 Rad8 18.h3 Rd7 19.Rd1 Red8 20.Rxd7 Rxd7 21.Ne1 Ne6 22.Bd3 Janiesch,M-Rebel Century Saint Petersburg 84/274 2001 0-1 Bxd3 23.Nxd3 Nf4 24.Ne1 Bc5 25.Bxc5 bxc5 26.Qc2 Qd8 27.Nf3 c4 28.Nxe5 Rd2 29.Qb1 Rxf2 30.Kxf2 Qd2+ 31.Kf3 Qxg2+ 32.Kxf4 Qf2+ 33.Nf3 g5+ 34.Ke5 Qc5+ 35.Kxf6 Qd6+ 36.Kf5 Qf4# Humphries,B-Pizzato,C Noosa op 1994 0-1]

8.Re1 Nbd7 Black is slightly better. **9.c3 Nc5** -0.10/19

[9...h6∓ -0.49/20 should be considered.]

10.Bc2= dxe4 11.dxe4 Bc7 12.Qe2 Wards off Nc5-d3 **12...Qe7 13.b4 Ne6 14.Nc4 Nf4** 0.46/24

[14...a5= 0.10/20 might be stronger.]

15.Bxf4± exf4 16.e5 And now Qe2-d3 would win. **16...Nd5** 0.93/19

[16...Bg4!± 0.42/22]

17.h3 0.24/20

[17.Nd6!± 0.93/19]

17...g6 0.65/22

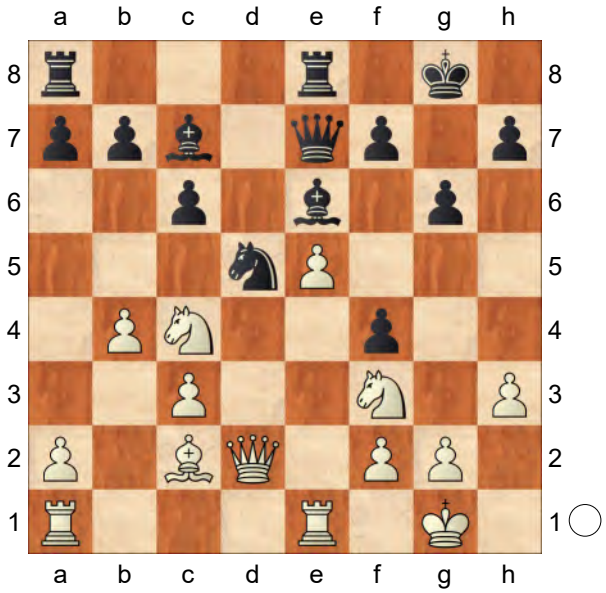
[17...Nxc3? 18.Qd3 g6 19.Qxc3+-]

[17...Be6= 0.24/20]

18.Qd2 Nc4-d6! is the strong threat.

18...Be6 1.20/20

[18...Rd8± 0.57/20]



19.Nd6!± Red8 2.58/20 A mistake that costs the game.

[19...Bxd6± 1.27/19 was worth a try. 20.exd6 Qf6 *(20...Qxd6 21.c4±)*]

20.c4+-

[20.Nxb7 Bxe5 21.Rxe5 *(21.Nxd8 Bxc3 22.Nxc6 Qe8±)* 21...Qxb7±]

20...Nb6 21.c5

[21.Qxf4?! Rxd6 22.exd6 Bxd6+-]

21...Nd5 22.Be4

[22.Nxb7 Rdb8 23.Nd6 Rxb4±]

22...b6 23.Nd4 Excellent horsemanship.

23...Bd7 24.Bxd5 cxd5 25.Qxf4

[25.c6 Bxd6 26.exd6 Qxd6+-]

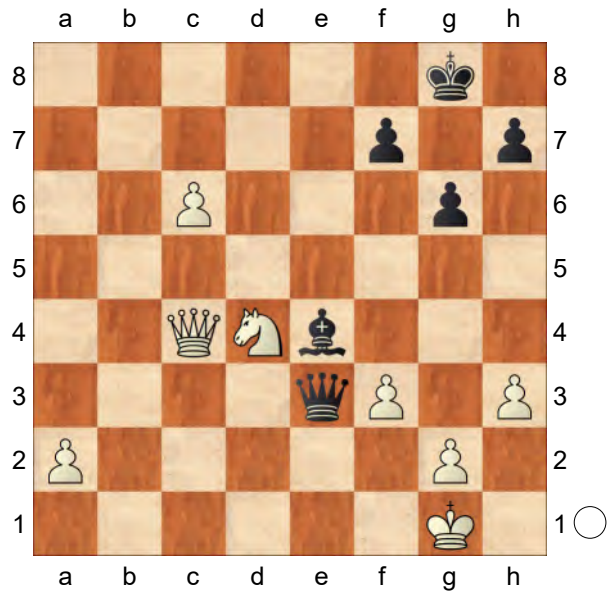
25...bxc5 26.bxc5 Rab8 27.Rab1 Rxb1 28.Rxb1 Rb8 29.Rxb8+ Bxb8 30.Nf3 Bc7 31.Qb4 Bc6 32.Nc8 Qd7 Black is weak on the dark squares

33.Nxa7 White is clearly winning.

33...Ba4 34.Qb7 d4 35.c6 Qd8 36.Qb4 Bc2 37.Nb5 Be4 38.Nxc7

[38.Nfxd4 Qg5 39.f3 *(39.Nxc7? Qxg2#)* 39...Qe3+ 40.Kh1 Qc1+ 41.Kh2 Bxe5+ 42.g3 Qe3-+]

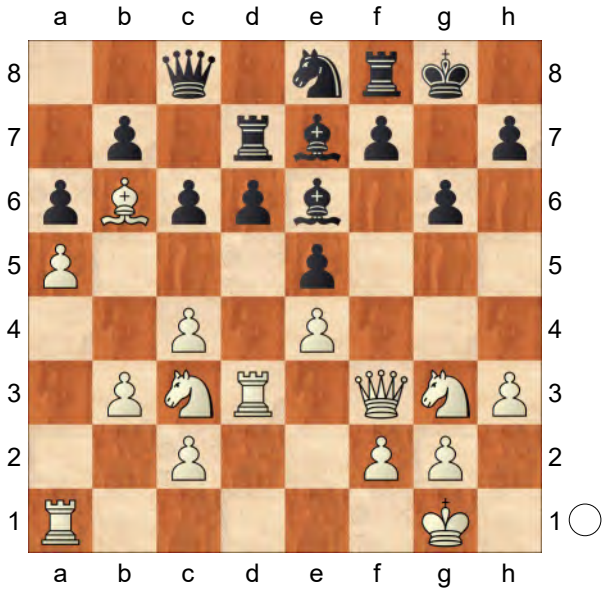
38...Qxc7 39.Nxd4 Black must now prevent Qb4-d6. **39...Qxe5 40.Qc4 Qg5 41.f3 Qe3+**



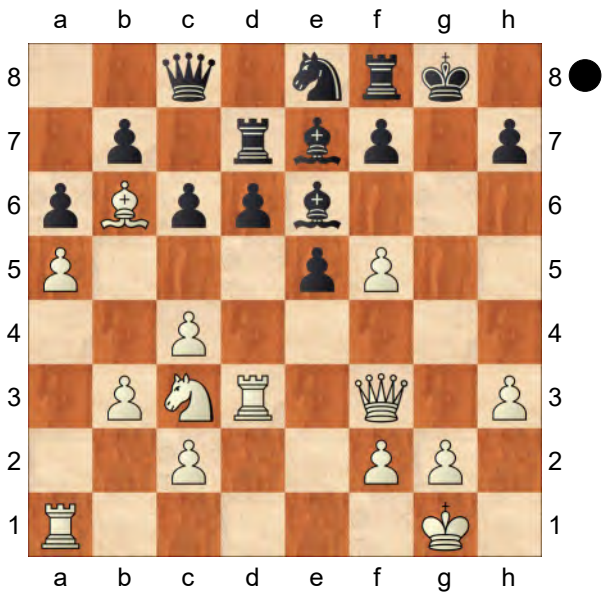
42.Kh1!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.33
1-0

C28
□ **Wei,Yi** **2755**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2766**
Warsaw Superbet Rapid (7) 10.05.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Na5 5.Qf3 Nxc4 6.dxc4 d6 7.Nge2 Be7
[7...Be6 8.b3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.a4 Nd7 11.a5 a6 12.Ng3 Bg5 13.Nf5 Bxc1 14.Raxc1 g6 15.Ne3 c6 16.Ra1 Qe7 17.Qd1 Rad8 18.Qd2 Nf6 19.f4 exf4 20.Rxf4 Nh5 21.Rf3 Qg5 22.Raf1 Larand,M (2723)-Osnos,V (2750) Manhattan March Int 1999 (6) 0-1]
8.h3 The position is equal. **8...0-0 9.Ng3N**
[9.0-0 c6 10.Rd1 Be6 11.b3 Qc7 12.a4 Rad8 13.Ng3 Kh8 14.Nf5 Bxf5 15.Qxf5 g6 16.Qf3 Ng8 17.Qe3 a6 18.Bb2 Qc8 19.Ne2 Qe6 20.Nf4 Qc8 21.Nd3 f6 22.f4 Rfe8 23.Rf1 Bf8 Model Games-So,W]
9...c6 10.0-0 Be6 11.b3 Qd7 12.a4 Rad8 13.Rd1 Qc8 14.Be3 a6 15.a5 Ne8 16.Bb6 Rd7 17.Rd3 g6

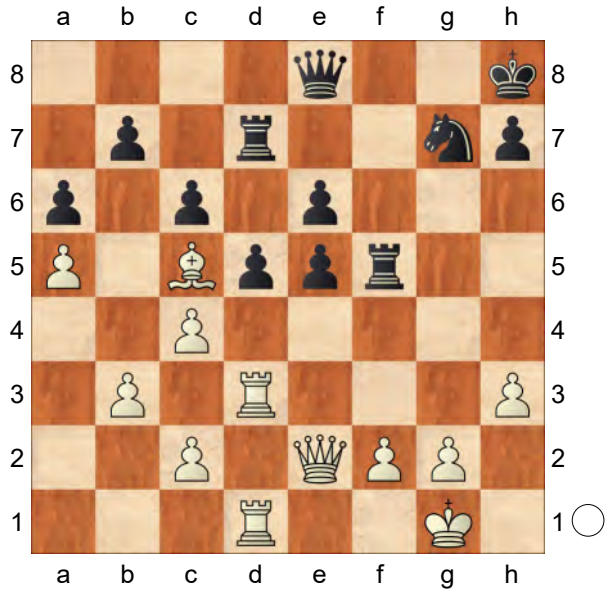


Against Ng3-f5 **18.Nf5** -0.05/29 **gxf5 19.exf5**



Kh8 1.33/24 **20.fxe6±** White is much

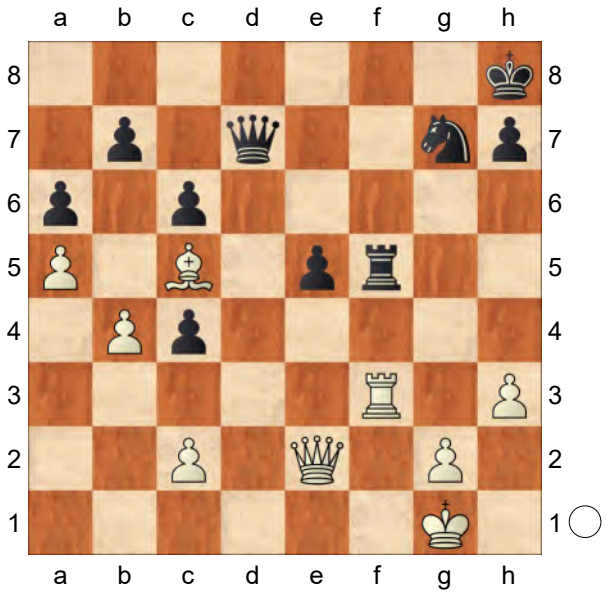
more active. The black rooks are passive. **20...fxe6 21.Qe2 Ng7 22.Rad1 Qe8 23.Ne4 d5 24.Nc5 Bxc5 25.Bxc5 Rf5**



26.Re3 0.85/19
[⌓26.cxd5! 1.27/22 exd5 27.Rf3]
26...e4 27.f3↑ White is really pushing.
27...dxc4 28.Rxd7
[28.fxe4? Rxd1+ *(28...Rxc5? 29.Rf1-+)* 29.Qxd1 Rxc5-+]
28...Qxd7 29.b4
[29.Qxc4 feels hotter. exf3 30.Rd3 Qc7 31.Bb6]
29...exf3 30.Rxf3
[30.Qxc4? f2+ 31.Kh2 Qd1-+ *(31...f1R? 32.Rd3-+; 31...f1Q? 32.Qxf1 Rxf1 33.Rd3-+; 31...f1N+? 32.Kg1-+; 31...f1B? 32.Qg4-+)*]
30...e5 1.23/23
[Black should play 30...h5± 0.45/21]

(Diagram)

Black is on the road to losing. **31.Re3! Qd5** 1.89/22
[31...h5± 1.27/20]
32.g4+- Rg5 33.Be7 Deflection



33...Rg6 34.Rxe5 Qd4+ 35.Kh1 h6 36.Bc5 Qd7 3.62/21
[36...Qf4 2.50/20 was called for. 37.Re4 Qg5 38.Qxc4 h5]
37.Qxc4 Black is weak on the dark squares **37...Rf6 38.Bd4 Kh7 39.Qd3+ Kg8 40.Qc4+ Kh7 41.Qd3+ Kg8 42.Re4 Rd6 43.Qc4+ Ne6 44.c3 Rd5 45.Kg2 h5?** 4.82/20
[45...Ng5 2.14/18 46.Re2 Ne6]
46.Qe2 Nxd4 47.cxd4 Rxd4 48.Rxd4
[48.gxh5 Qd5 *(48...Rd2 49.Re8+ Qxe8 50.Qxd2=)* 49.Qg4+ Kh8 50.Qc8+ Kg7 51.Qc7+ *(51.Qxb7+? Kh6-+)* 51...Kh6 52.Qf4+ Kh7 53.Qc7+ Kh8 54.Qc8+ Kh7 55.Qc7+ *(55.Qxb7+? Kh6-+)* 55...Kh6 56.Qf4+ Kh7 57.Qc7+=]
48...Qxd4 49.gxh5? 1.40/18
[49.Qe8++- 3.97/19 is more deadly. Kg7 50.Qe7+ *(50.gxh5 Qd5+ 51.Kg3 Qg5+ 52.Kf2 Qf4+ 53.Ke2 Qxb4=; 50.Qxh5 Qd2+ 51.Kh1 Qc1+ 52.Kg2 Qd2+ 53.Kf3 Qc3+ 54.Ke2 Qb2+ 55.Kf3 Qb3+ 56.Kf2 Qb2+ 57.Kg3 Qc3+ 58.Kh4 Qe1+ 59.Kg5 Qe5+ 60.Kh4 Qe1+ 61.Kg5 Qd2+ 62.Kf5 Qd5+ 63.Kf4 Qd2+ 64.Kg3*

Qe3+ 65.Kg2 Qd2+=) 50...Kg6 51.Qe6+ *(51.Qxb7 Qe4+ 52.Kf2 hxg4=; 51.gxh5+ Kh6+-)* 51...Kg7 52.Qe7+ *(52.gxh5 Qb2+ 53.Kf1 Qb1+ 54.Kf2 Qb2+ 55.Kf3 Qc3+ 56.Qe3 Qxb4=)* 52...Kg8 53.Qg5+ *(53.gxh5 Qf4±; 53.Qxb7 Qe4+ 54.Kg3 Qd3+ 55.Kh4 Qd8+ 56.g5 Qd4+ 57.Kxh5 Qd1+ 58.Kg6 Qd3+ 59.Kf6 Qf3+ 60.Ke5 Qg3+ 61.Ke6 Qxh3+ 62.Kd6 Qg3+ 63.Kxc6 Qc3+ 64.Kb6 Qxb4+ 65.Kxa6* Discovered Attack *Qf4±)* 53...Kf7 54.Qxh5+ *(54.gxh5 Qb2+ 55.Kg3 Qc3+ 56.Kg4 Qxb4+ 57.Qf4+ Qxf4+ 58.Kxf4 Kg8+-)* 54...Kg7 55.Qg5+ Kf7 56.Qc5]

49...Qxb4? 15.19/21

[49...Qd5+± 1.40/18 50.Kg3 Qd6+ 51.Kh4 Qd8+ 52.Kg4 Qd7+ 53.Kf4 Qd6+ 54.Ke3 Qe5+ 55.Kf2 Qd5 *(55...Qh2+ 56.Kf3±)*]

50.Qg4+ White is clearly winning. **50...Qxg4+ 51.hxg4** K3P-K3P **51...Kf7 52.g5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.28 (precise)

1-0

C27

□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek 2766**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju 2764**

Warsaw Superbet Rapid (2) 08.05.2024

[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.d3 c6 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 0-0 7.Bb3

[7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 Nbd7 9.d4 exd4 10.Nxd4 Ne5 11.Bb3 Re8 12.f3 Ng6 13.Bf2 Nh5 14.Nde2 Qg5 15.Bxc5 dxc5 16.Kh1 b5 17.a3 c4 18.Ba2 Ngf4 19.Nxf4 Nxf4 20.g3 Bh3 21.Rf2 Rad8 Safarli,E (2608)-Antipov,M (2581) chess.com (Int.-m/3-rapid) 155/102 2023 0-1]

7...a5N

[7...Nbd7 8.Ne2 Bb6 9.c3 Nc5 10.Bc2 Bg4 C 24/03 2000]

[7...Bb6 8.Be3 Nbd7 9.Qd2 Nc5 10.Bxc5 Bxc5 11.Na4 Bb6 12.Nxb6 axb6 13.Rfe1 Bg4 14.Qe3 Nd7 15.Nd2 Nc5 16.d4 Nxb3 17.Nxb3 Be6 18.dxe5 dxe5 19.Rad1 Qc7 20.a3 Rad8 21.Nc1 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 Hermansson,E (2044)-12. ♗b3 ♗d7 13. ♘e5 ♗c6 (2174) GBR-ch 103rd 2016 (5.1) ½-½]

8.Be3 Bxe3 Black has an edge. **9.fxe3 Nbd7 10.a3 Nc5 11.Ba2 b5 12.Qe1 Be6 13.Bxe6 Nxe6 14.Ne2 g6 15.h3 Nh5 16.a4 b4 17.b3 Ra7 18.Ng3** Threatens to win with Ng3xh5. **18...Nhg7 19.Rd1 c5 20.Nd2** -0.70/20

[Better is 20.h4= -0.17/21]

20...f5!∓ 21.Nc4 -1.21/20

[21.Ne2∓ -0.61/20]

21...f4∓ 22.Ne2 Raf7 23.exf4 exf4 24.Nd2 Ng5 25.Nf3 N7e6 26.Kh2 d5 -0.19/17

[Black should play 26...Nxf3+∓ -1.19/19 27.Rxf3 h6]

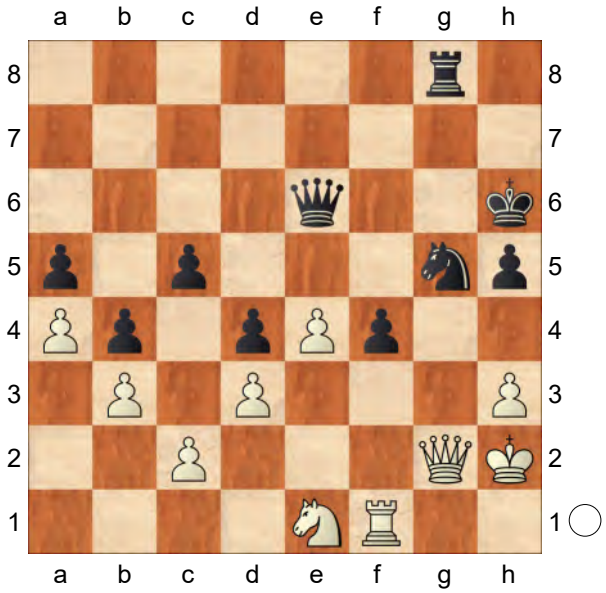
27.Neg1!= Nxf3+ 28.Nxf3 d4 29.Rd2 g5 30.g4 fxg3+ 31.Qxg3 Rf4 32.Rdf2 Qf6

[32...Qc7 feels hotter. 33.Kg2 h5 34.Qh2 Qf7]

33.Kg1 h5 34.Ne1 Kh7 35.Rxf4 gxf4 36.Qf3 Kh6 Hoping for ...Ne6-g5. **37.Kh2** White is weak on the dark squares **37...Ng5 38.Qf2 Qe6!**

[38...f3?! 39.h4 Nf7 *(39...Qf4+ 40.Qg3±)* 40.Qd2+ *(40.Nxf3 Ne5=)* 40...Kg7 41.Rxf3 *(41.Nxf3 Ne5=)* 41...Qxh4+ 42.Rh3+-]

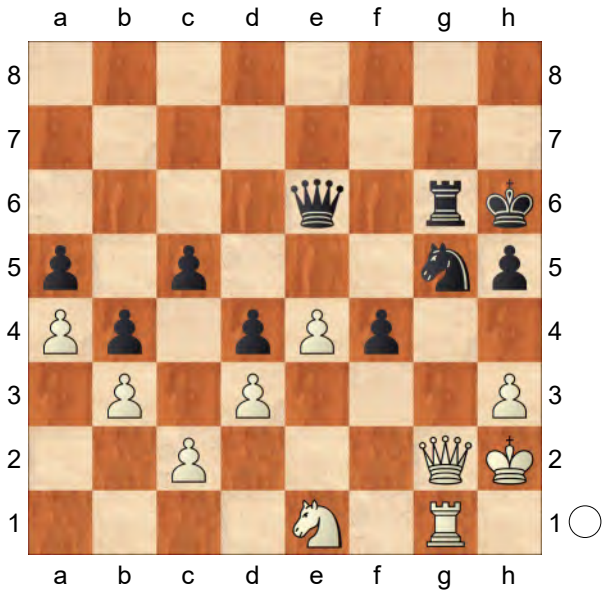
39.Qg2 Strongly threatening h3-h4.
39...Rg8? 2.85/29
[39...h4= 0.17/25]



White stays focused until the end.
40.Rg1? 0.00/29
[40.Rxf4 Qd6 41.Qg3 Nxe4 42.Qxg8 Qxf4+ 43.Kh1 Nf6=]
[40.h4!+- 2.85/29 Nh7 41.Qd2]
40...Rg6? 5.25/25
[40...f3= 0.00/29 41.Nxf3 Nxf3+ 42.Qxf3 Qe5+ 43.Kh1 Rxg1+ 44.Kxg1 c4]

(Diagram)

41.h4!+- White is clearly winning.
41...Nf7 42.Qxg6+ Qxg6 43.Rxg6+ Kxg6 Endgame. KN-KN **44.Ng2 Ne5 45.Nxf4+ Kf7 46.Kg3**
[46.Nxh5 c4+-]
46...Ng4 47.Nd5 Ke6 48.Kf4 Kf7 49.Nb6 Ne3 50.Nd7 c4 White must now prevent ...c4-c3. **51.Ne5+**
[51.bxc4 Nxc2 52.c5 b3=]
51...Ke6 52.Nxc4
[Less strong is 52.dxc4 Ng2+ 53.Kg3



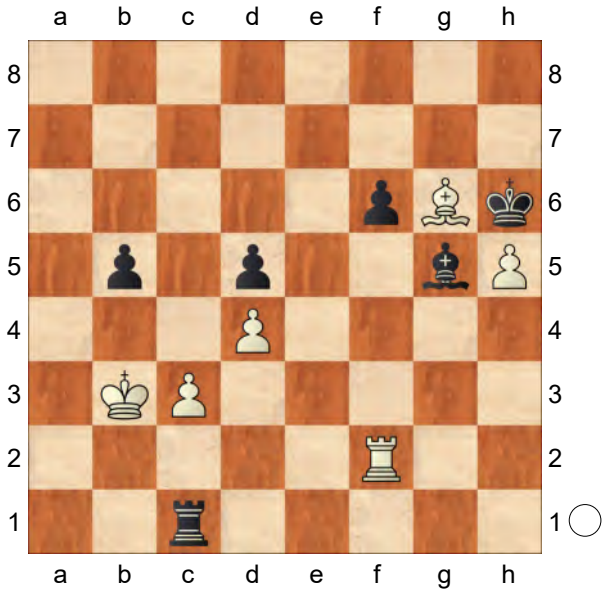
Ne1+- *(53...Kxe5? 54.Kxg2 Kxe4 55.Kf2+-)*]
52...Nxc2 53.Nxa5 Ne1 54.Nc6 Nxd3+ 55.Kg5 Nc5 56.Nxd4+ Ke5 57.Nc6+ Kxe4 58.a5 Nxb3 59.a6
[Worse is 59.Nxb4 Nxa5 60.Kxh5 Kf5=]
59...Nc5 60.a7
[Stronger than 60.Kxh5 Nxa6 61.Nxb4 Nxb4=]
60...Ne6+ 61.Kxh5 Nc7 62.Nxb4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.37
1-0

C24
□ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2734**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2770**
Chess.com Classic Div 1 L rapid (2.3)
[Kitty Kat]

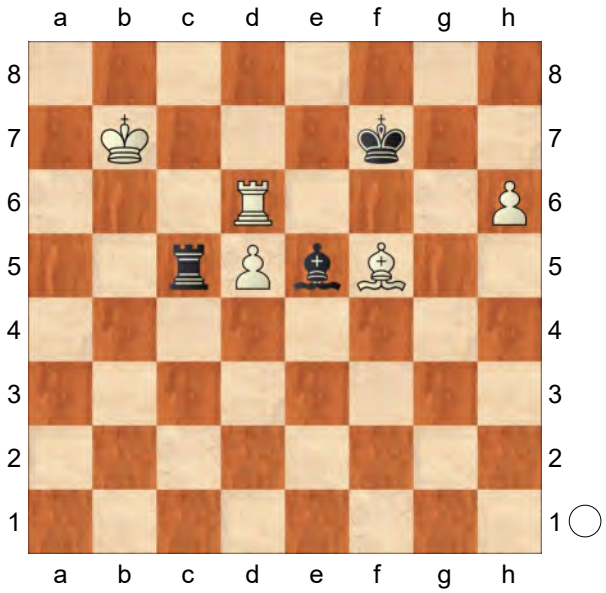
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 a5 6.a4 White wants to play e4xd5. **6...Bb4+ 7.c3 Bd6 8.exd5** The position is equal. **8...cxd5 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Na3 Nbd7 11.Nb5 Bb8**

12.Bh4
[12.d4 e4 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nf1 h6 15.Bh4 Bf4 16.h3 Re8 17.g3 Bb8 18.g4 Nf8 19.Ne3 Ng6 20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Bxd5 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Qg5 23.c4 Bf4 24.Qb3 h5 25.Ne3 Qh4 26.gxh5 Qxh5 Gazi,M (2804)-Panov Botvinnik Attack (2773) TCh-Playoffs 2001 (2) 0-1 27.Qd1 Qh6 28.Nf5 Qh7 29.Qg4 Ra6 30.Kd1 Rf6 31.Re1 Nf8 32.Ne3 Bb8 33.Qe2 Qh4 34.Rf1 Rf3 35.Kc2 Ne6 36.Nd5 Ng5 37.Rae1 Re6 38.Ndc3 Ref6 39.Nd1 R3f4 40.Qe3 Nf3 41.d5 Be5 Firouzja,A (2804)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2773) Bucharest Superbet Classic 2nd 2022 (2) 0-1]
12...h6
[12...Ra6 13.d4 e4 14.Nd2 Bf4 15.Nf1 Kf8 16.Ne3 g5 17.Bg3 h5 18.h4 Bxg3 19.fxg3 Qb8 20.Nf1 Bg4 21.Qc1 e3 22.hxg5 e2 23.gxf6 Rxf6 24.Ne3 Qxg3+ 25.Kd2 Re6 26.Qg1 Nf6 27.Bc2 Salman,F (2802)-Burry,S (2576) EU-ch 12th Aix les Bains 2011 (3) 1-0]
13.h3N
[13.0-0 0-0 14.Re1 Re8 15.Nd2 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6:-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.]
13...Ra6 14.Qe2 -0.65/18
[14.Bg3= -0.26/21]
14...0-0!∓ 15.d4 -1.31/18
[15.0-0-0∓ -0.60/19]
15...e4 0.00/22
[15...exd4!∓ -1.31/18 Strongly threatening ...g7-g5. 16.Nfxd4 g5]
16.Nd2= Bf4 17.Nf1 Qb8
[17...g5!? 18.Bg3□ Re8=]
18.g3 Bd6 0.60/23
[18...g5!= 0.02/22]
19.Bxf6 0.09/18
[19.g4!± 0.60/23]
19...Nxf6 20.Ne3 Rd8 21.0-0-0 Bf8 0.79/21
[21...Qc8= 0.20/21]
22.Kb1 Ne8 23.h4 -0.10/22
[23.f4± 0.46/22]
23...Nc7 24.g4 Nxb5 0.77/20
[24...Rb6= 0.00/22]
25.axb5±
[25.Qxb5 Qd6 26.Ka2 Rb6∓]
25...Rb6 26.g5? -0.65/20
[26.Ba4!± 0.89/18]
26...Qf4 0.00/20 Prevents f2-f3
[26...a4!∓ -0.65/20 27.Bxa4 Qa7]
27.gxh6= g6 0.71/19
[27...Qxh6= 0.00/20 keeps the balance. 28.Rhg1 Be7]
28.h5± Threatens to win with h5xg6.
28...g5 29.Rdf1 f2-f3 is the strong threat. **29...Qf3** 0.82/22
[29...a4± 0.44/22 is superior. 30.Bc2 *(30.Bxa4 Ra8±)* 30...a3]
30.Qxf3 exf3 31.Rfg1 aiming for Bb3xd5! **31...Bxh6 32.Bc2 Rxb5 33.Rg3↑** White has some pressure.
33...Rc8 1.06/21
[33...Rb6± 0.48/25]
34.Ka2
[34.Rxf3 Rxc3 35.Ka2 Rc7-+]
34...a4 35.Nf5! Bxf5 36.Bxf5 Rc7 1.60/22
[⌓36...Rd8 1.21/22 37.Rxf3 f6]
37.Rxf3 Re7 38.Bd3 Prevents Re7-e2.
38...Ra5 39.Rf6 Re6 40.Rf5 Kg7 41.Rg1 Rf6 42.f4 1.37/24
[42.Rxf6+- 1.93/20 Kxf6 43.Rg3]
42...Rxf5 43.Bxf5 Endgame. KRB-KRB
43...Kf6 44.fxg5+ Bxg5 45.Rf1 Kg7 46.Bc8 b6 47.Bb7 f6 1.71/22
[47...a3± 1.32/19 48.bxa3 *(48.b4 Ra7±)* 48...Be7]
48.Bc6 1.07/21
[48.Bc8!+- 1.71/22]
48...Kh6 49.Be8! Ra8 50.Re1 0.16/19

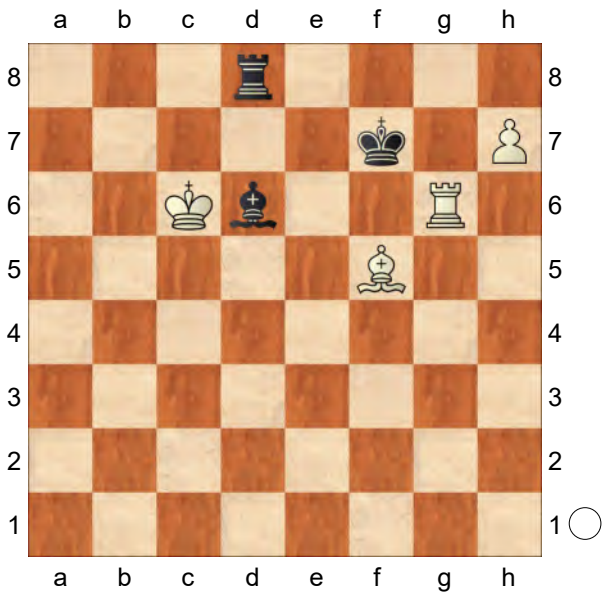
[White should try 50.Bf7!± 1.24/18]
50...a3!= 51.Re6 axb2+ 52.Kxb2 b5 53.Kb3
[53.Bxb5? loses. Rb8 54.Ka3 *(54.c4 dxc4 55.Re1 Rxb5+-+)* 54...Rxb5-+]
53...Ra1 1.21/22
[Better is 53...Rb8± 0.31/20]
54.Bg6!± Hoping for Re6-d6.
[54.Bxb5 Rb1+ 55.Ka4 Kxh5±]
54...Rc1 55.Re2 0.53/19 Dodges Bg5-d2
[55.Rd6± 1.39/23]
55...Bf4!± 56.Rf2 Bg5 1.20/22
[Black should play 56...Kg5!± 0.44/22]



57.Kb4 0.38/21
[57.Bc2!± 1.20/22]
57...Kg7 0.80/22
[57...Bh4± 0.38/21 58.Rf3 Be1]
58.Be8 0.08/19
[58.Kb3± 0.80/22]
58...Rb1+= 59.Kc5 Rc1 Repels Rf2-c2 **60.Kxd5 Rxc3 61.Bxb5 Kh6 62.Be8 Rc8 63.Re2 Rd8+ 64.Kc4 f5 65.Re6+ Kh7 66.Bg6+ Kg7?** 2.62/17 Loses the game.
[66...Kh6= 0.17/22 and Black has nothing to worry.]
67.Bxf5+- Bf6? 5.54/23
[67...Bf4 2.59/27 68.h6+ Kg8 69.Rg6+ Kh8]
68.d5 Rc8+ 69.Kb5 Rb8+ 70.Kc6 Rc8+ 71.Kb7 Rc5 6.88/22
[⌓71...Rd8 4.30/20 72.d6 Kf7]
72.Rd6 Be5 73.h6+ Kf7



74.h7! Rb5+ 75.Kc6 Intending Rd6-d7+ and mate. **75...Rb8 76.Rg6** Black must now prevent Rg6-g8! **76...Rd8 77.d6 Bxd6**



78.Rg8! White mates. **78...Bf8 79.h8Q**

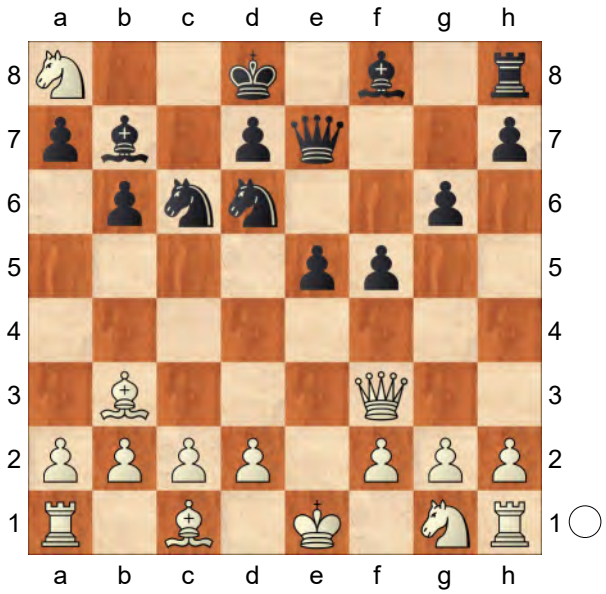
[Inferior is 79.h8N+ Kxg8 80.Ng6 Bb4=]
79...Rd6+ 80.Kb7 Rh6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.21 (precise)
1-0

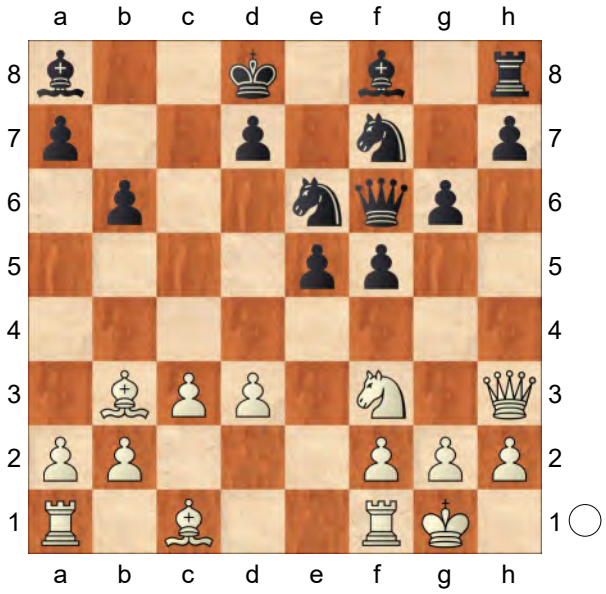
C27
□ **Aravindh,Chithambaram VR 2698**
■ **Suleymanli,Aydin Elshan 2632**
Gashimov Memorial Rapid 10th (5)
[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nxe4 4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Bb3 Nc6 6.Nb5 g6 7.Qf3 f5 8.Qd5 Qe7 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 b6! 11.Qf3 Black must now prevent Na8xb6!
[11.Qd3!?]
[11.d3 Bb7 12.h4 f4 13.Qf3 Nd4 14.Qg4 Bxa8 15.Bd2 N6f5 16.c3 h5 17.Qxg6 Nxb3 18.axb3 Nxh4 19.Rxh4 Qxh4 20.Rxa7 Bc6 21.Nf3 Qe7 22.Ng5 Kc8 23.Nf7 Kb8 24.Qxc6 Langeweg,C (2260)-Kameshwaran,V (2480) Game No. 115 (THE TWO BISHOPS) (3) 1-0]
11...Bb7

(Diagram)

12.Qh3! Bxa8 13.d3N White is slightly better.
[13.Ne2 Nd4 14.Nc3 h5 15.0-0 g5 E1) 1.e4 e5 Without 2.Nf3 –-Bishop's Opening 2.Bc4 –]
13...Nd4 1.29/18
[13...f4± 0.53/21]
14.c3± Ne6 15.Nf3 Nf7 16.0-0 Qf6 2.21/21
[16...f4± 1.57/19]

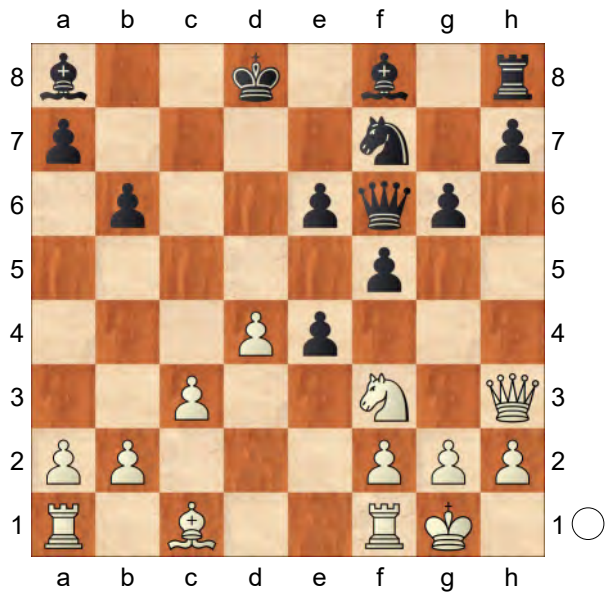




17.d4! Strongly threatening d4xe5.
17...e4 18.Bxe6 dxe6

(Diagram)

19.Ne5 Deflection **19...Nxe5 20.dxe5 Qxe5 21.Qh4+ Be7 22.Rd1+ Ke8 23.Bg5 Qg7 24.Rd2 h6 25.Bxe7 Qxe7 26.Qg3 Kf7 27.Rad1 Bc6** Wards off Rd2-d7 **28.c4 Rc8 29.Qe5 g5 30.b3**
[Don't take 30.Rd6?! Qf6 31.Qxf6+

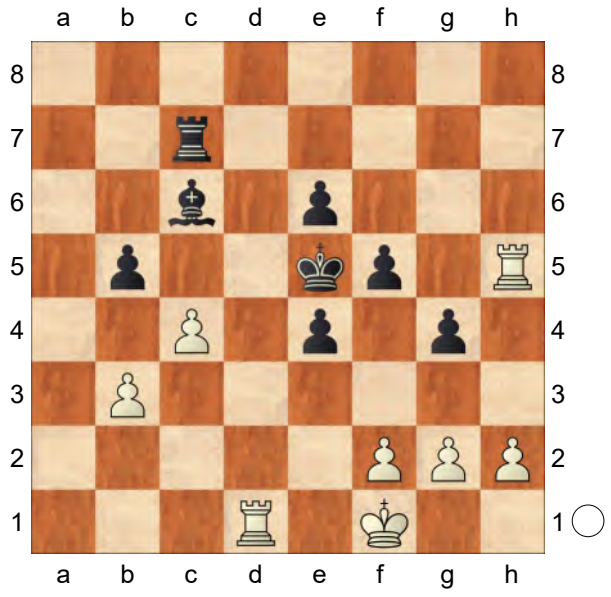


Kxf6±]

30...h5 31.a4 Qf6 32.Qxf6+ Kxf6+- Endgame. KRR-KRB **33.Rd8** Prevents Kf6-e7 **33...Rc7 34.Kf1 Ke5 35.Rg8 g4 36.Rh8 a6 37.Rxh5 b5 38.axb5** 1.12/20

[⌓38.cxb5 1.54/24 axb5 39.a5]

38...axb5±



39.h3 0.36/27

[39.Ra1!± 1.25/22]

39...bxc4± 40.bxc4 gxh3 41.Rxh3 aiming for Rh3-a3. **41...Ba4 42.Rc1** Rh3-a3 is the strong threat. **42...Bb5!**

43.Rhc3 Ba6 44.Ke1 Kd4 0.68/22

[44...Rc5!= 0.24/25]

45.c5 c5-c6 would now be deadly.

45...Bd3? 3.12/25 This costs Black the game.

[45...Rc6± 0.72/19 was worth a try. 46.f3 exf3]

46.c6+- f4 47.Rb3 Bc4 5.67/21

[⌓47...Kd5 3.61/18 48.Rb8 Rxc6 49.Rxc6 Kxc6]

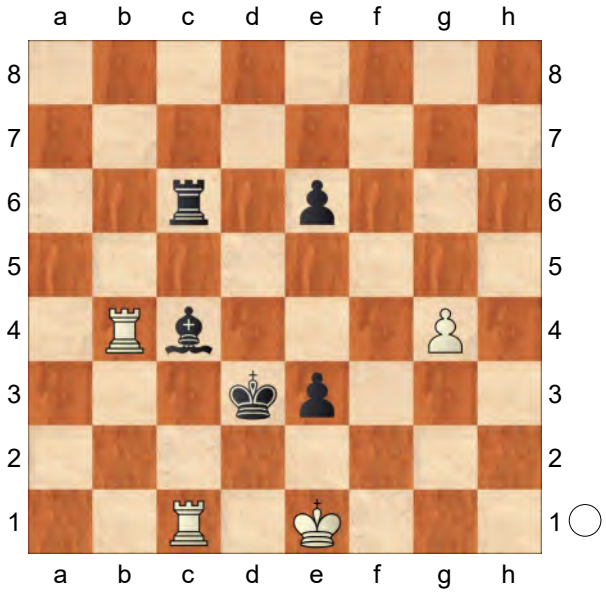
48.Rb6 2.59/20

[⌓48.Rb4 5.67/21 Rxc6 49.g3]

48...e3? 6.33/20

[48...Bd5 2.59/20 49.g3 fxg3]

49.fxe3+ fxe3 50.Rb4 Rxc6 51.g4 Kd3



52.Rbxc4! Rxc4 53.Rxc4 Kxc4

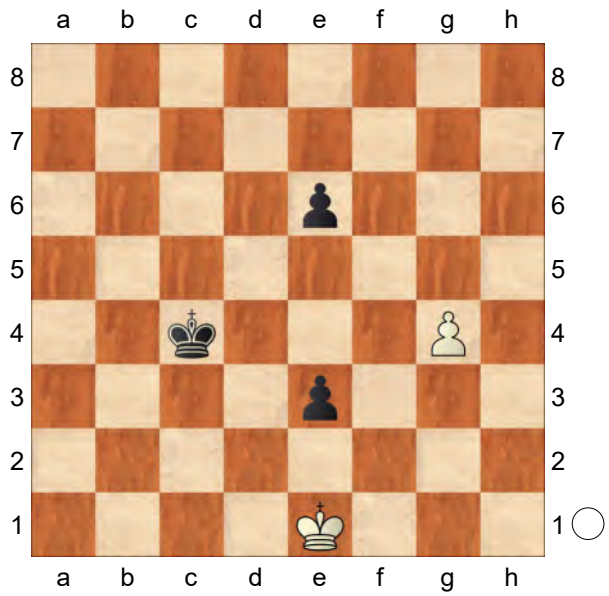
(Diagram)

54.g5! Threatening mate with g5-g6.

54...Kd5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.49

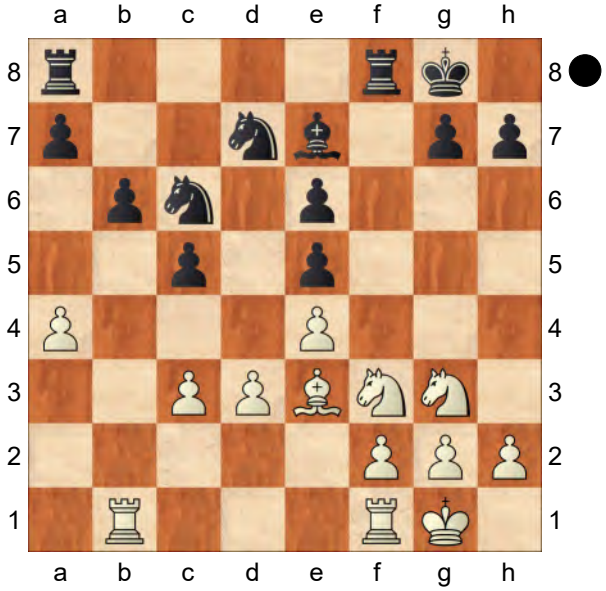
1-0



C24

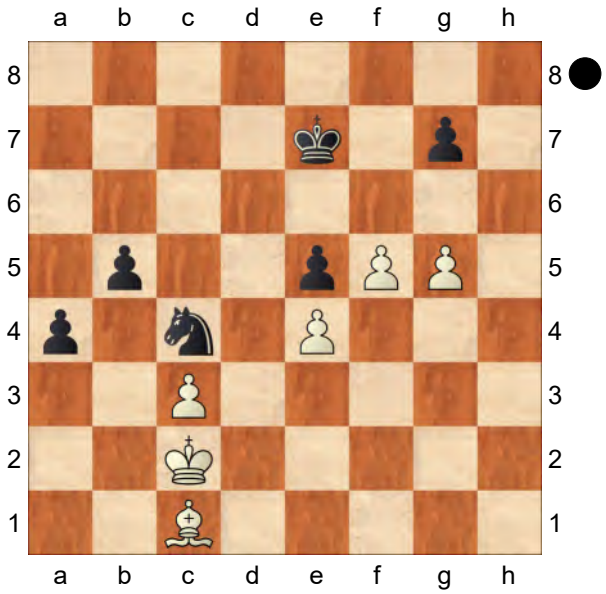
□ **Erigaisi,Arjun Kumar** **2762**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2726**
Warsaw Superbet Rapid (9) 10.05.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bd6 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 d4 8.Ne2 c5 The position is equal. **9.Ng3 Nc6 10.a4N**
[10.Nh4 g6 11.Bg5
A) 11...Be7 12.Bh6 *(12.Nf3 Kg7 13.h3 Ng8 14.Bd2 h6 15.c3 Bd6 16.Rc1 Bd7 17.cxd4 cxd4 18.a3 Qe7 19.Nh2 Rac8 20.Bc4 Rc7 21.Ne2 Be6 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Ng4 h5 24.Nh2 Qh4 25.Be1 Rcf7 26.Kh1 Qd8* Ernst,H (2783)-7 Ne5 Nc6 (2455) 26: (rapid) San Diego 2008 (1.1) 1-0*)* 12...Re8 13.Nf3 Nd7 14.Bd5 Bf6 15.Qd2 Nb6 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.b3 Qc7 18.a4 Nd7 19.Ne1 Qd8 20.f4 exf4 21.Qxf4 Qe7 22.Nf3 Ne5 23.h3 Nxf3+ 24.Rxf3 Be5 25.Qd2 Qd6 26.Qf2 Janosi (2163)-5...g5 (1953) 91/282 Moscow 2004 1-0;
B) 11...h6 12.Bxh6 Ng4 13.Nxg6 Nxh6 14.Qh5 Kg7 15.Nxf8 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6:-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.;
C) 11...Na5 12.h3 Nxb3 13.axb3 Be7 14.f4 Nd7 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Qg4 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6:-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.]
10...Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Bg5 Be7 13.c3 Nd7 14.Bd2 Qb6 Repels Qd1-b3 **15.Qb1 dxc3 16.bxc3 Qxb1 17.Raxb1 b6 18.Be3**



c4! 19.dxc4 Rfd8 20.Rfd1 Na5 21.c5! Nc4 22.c6 Nf8 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.a5 Deflection **24...Nxa5 25.Nxe5 Bf6 26.Bd4 Bxe5** Remove Defender **27.Bxe5 Nxc6 28.Bf4 Ng6 29.Bg5 Rd3 30.Rc1! Nge5** -0.31/23 Black is more active.
[⌓30...Na5 -0.70/24 31.Nf1 Nc4]
31.Kf1!∓ Nc4 32.Ke2 Rd7 33.Nf1 h6 34.Be3 Kf7 35.f4 N6a5 36.Rb1 Na3 37.Rd1 Rxd1 38.Kxd1= Endgame. KBN-KNN **38...N3c4 39.Kc2 a6 40.Kd3 b5 41.g4 Nb7 42.Nd2** -0.66/22
[42.e5= -0.29/21 deserves

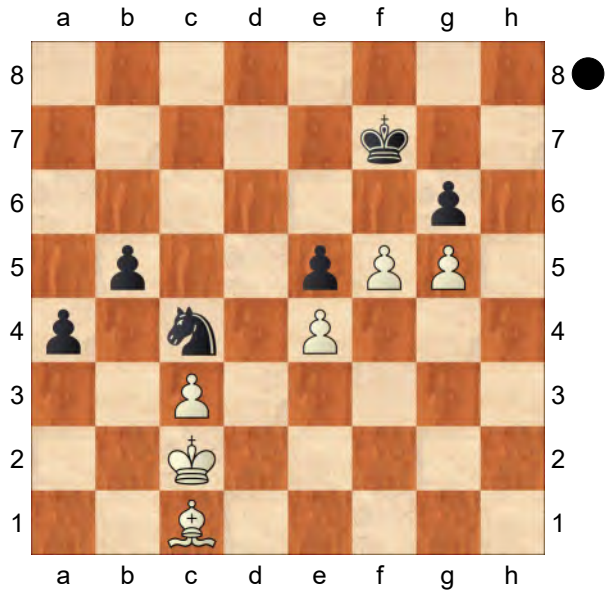
consideration.]
42...Nxd2!∓ 43.Kxd2 KB-KN **43...Nd6 44.Kd3 Nc4 45.Bc1 e5** -0.83/25
[45...a5= -0.29/33]
46.f5∓ a5 47.h4 -0.22/30
[White should play 47.Kc2∓ -0.74/32]
47...a4 48.Kc2 Ke7 -0.09/23
[48...Nd6∓ -1.23/30 49.c4 bxc4 *(49...Nxc4 50.Kc3∓)*]
49.g5= hxg5 50.hxg5 -1.27/26
[50.Bxg5+= -0.19/31 keeps the balance. Ke8 51.h5]



50...g6!∓ 51.Kb1
[51.fxg6? Kf8 52.Kb1 Kg7-+]
51...Kf7 White does not recover from this. **52.Kc2**

(Diagram)

Kg7! 53.Kd3? -7.48/25
[53.fxg6 -1.76/29 Kxg6 54.Kb1]
53...a3-+ ...a3-a2 would now be deadly.
54.f6+ Kf7 (-> ...a3-a2) **55.Kc2 a2 56.Bb2 Nd6 57.Kb3 Nxe4 58.Kxa2 Nxg5 59.Kb3 Nf3 60.Kb4 g5** ...g5-g4 is the strong threat.
[60...Kxf6 61.Kxb5 g5 62.c4-+]



61.Kxb5 g4
[Not 61...Kxf6 62.c4∓]
62.c4 g3 Threatens to win with ...g3-g2!
[62...Kxf6 63.c5 Nd4+ 64.Bxd4 exd4 65.c6-+]
63.Bc1 g2 64.Be3 g1Q Black mates.
65.Bxg1 Nxg1 66.c5 Nf3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
[66...Kxf6? too greedy. 67.c6 Ke7 68.Kb6+-]
0-1

C24
□ **Wei,Yi** **2755**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2726**
Warsaw Superbet Blitz (2) 11.05.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bd6 6.exd5 cxd5 7.Bg5 Nc6 8.0-0 d4 0.39/24
[8...Be6= -0.10/22 9.Nc3 Bc7 10.Nb5 Bb6 11.Re1 a6 12.Nc3 Qd6 13.Bh4 0-0 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Qd2 Kg7 16.Ne2 Qb4 17.c3 Qg4 18.d4

Rad8 19.h3 Qg6 20.Ng3 e4 21.Nh4 Qg5 22.Nhf5+ Kh8 23.Qxg5 fxg5 5.f4 00 6. ♘f3 ♘a6 (2720)-Grankin (2733) (ch) 127/(19) 2016 (10) ½-½]

9.Nbd2 0-0 10.Re1 h6 11.Bh4N

[11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Ne4 Qe7 13.Bd5 Bc7 14.Ng3 Qc5 15.Bb3 Na5 16.Rc1 Nc6 17.c3 dxc3 18.bxc3 Qd6 19.d4 exd4 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 Bb6 22.Re4 Bd7 23.Qh5 Rae8 24.Rxe8 Bxe8 25.Rd1 Bd7 Nevednichy,V (2559)-Charbonneau,P (2495) FRA-chT Top 16 GpA 2005 (4.2) ½-½ 26.Qf3 Bc6 27.Ne4 Qg6 28.d5 Bd7 29.h3 Bxh3 30.Qxh3 Qxe4 31.d6 Qf4 32.Qf3 Qxf3 33.gxf3 Rd8 34.d7 Bc7 35.Ba4 a6 36.Re1 b5 37.Re8+ Kh7 38.Bc2+ g6 39.Re7 Kg7 40.Bb3 Rf8 Cardenas,R (2559)-Dellis (2495) E. corres Germany 1981 (4.2) ½-½]

11...Bg4 0.77/19

[11...Re8± 0.36/20]

12.h3± Bh5 13.Qe2 -0.30/21

[13.g4!± 0.89/20 Bg6 14.Ba4]

13...Re8 14.Ne4

[14.g4!? Bg6□ 15.Rad1=]

14...Be7 0.53/18

[14...g5!= -0.27/23 15.g4 Bg6 16.Nxd6 Qxd6]

15.Ng3± Bh4xf6 would now be deadly.

15...Bg6 16.Nxe5 Bb4 17.Bxf6 Qxf6

(Diagram)

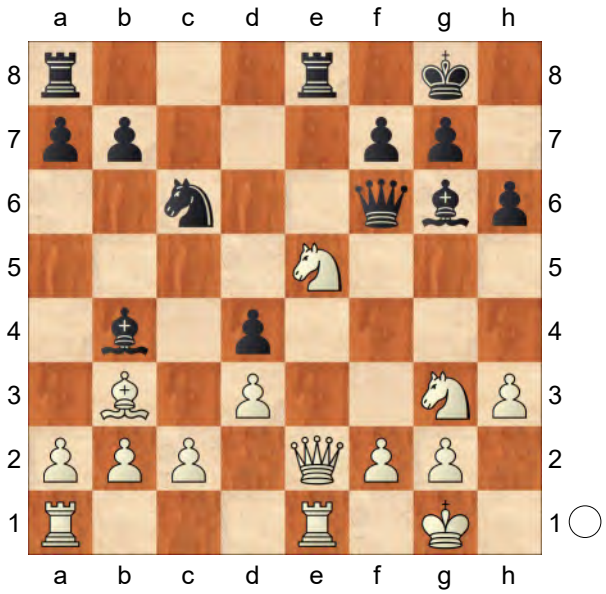
18.Ng4 Discovered Attack. Excellent horsemanship. **18...Qf4** ...Bb4xe1! is the strong threat. **19.Qxe8+ Rxe8 20.Rxe8+ Kh7 21.Nh2 Ne5** 1.62/18

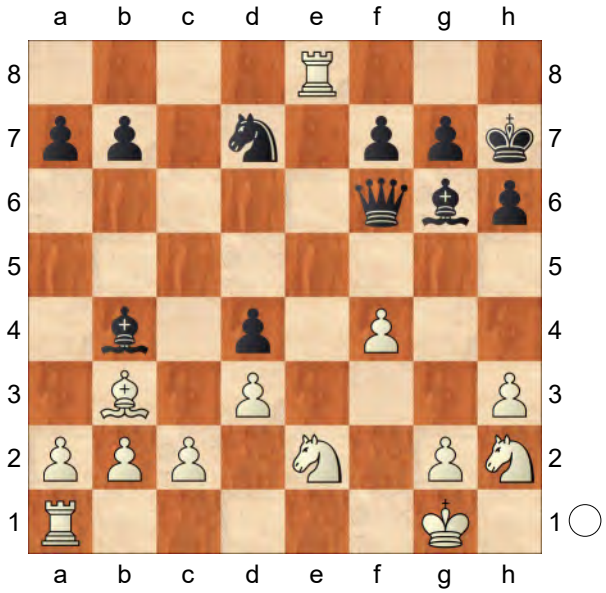
[21...Qc7± 0.71/21]

22.Ne2 Qf6 23.f4

[23.Nxd4?! Nxd3 24.Nhf3 Nf4±]

23...Nd7





24.g4 0.59/21

[White should play 24.Rf1!± 1.33/19]

24...Qc6? 2.13/21 A mistake that costs the game.

[24...Nc5!± 0.59/21 25.f5 Bxf5 26.gxf5 Nxb3 27.axb3 Qc6]

25.f5!+-

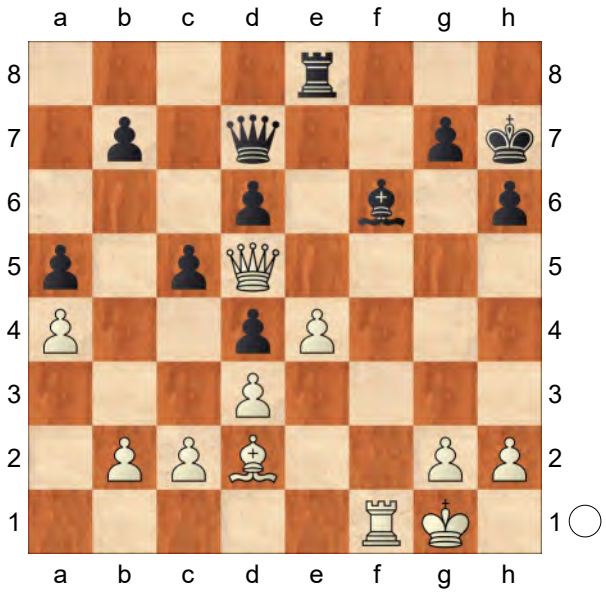
[25.Nxd4 Bc5 *(25...Qf6 26.c3=)* 26.c3 Bxd3 *(26...Bxd4+ 27.cxd4 Bxd3 28.Bxf7=)* 27.Bxf7 Bc4 *(27...Nf6 28.Re3=)* 28.Bxc4 Bxd4+ 29.cxd4 Qxc4∓]

25...Nc5? 4.90/22

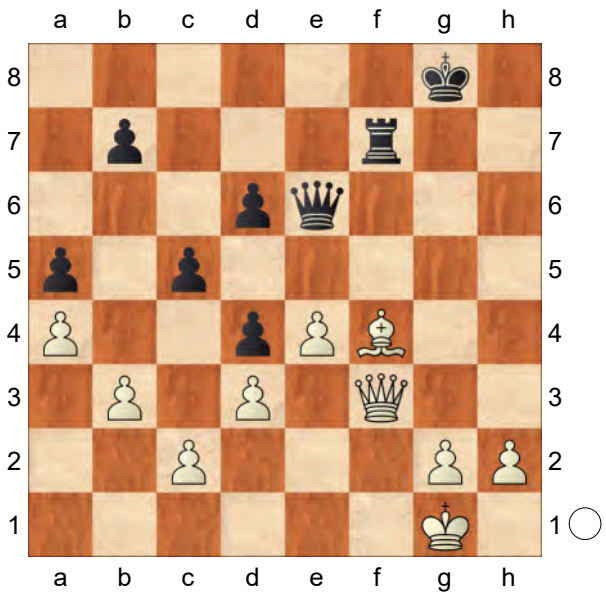
[25...Bxf5 1.97/20 26.gxf5 Nf6]
26.fxg6+ White is clearly winning.
26...Qxg6 27.Bd5
[Weaker is 27.Rf1 Nxb3 28.cxb3 *(28.axb3 Qc6+-)* 28...Qxd3+-]
27...Bd2 28.Rf1 Be3+ 29.Kh1 Ne6 30.Be4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.50
1-0

C23
□ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof 2734**
■ **Firouzja,Alireza 2738**
Chess.com Classic Div 1 W rapid (1.5)
[Kitty Kat]

C23: Bishop's Opening: 2...Bc5
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Qf3
[3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Na4 Bb6 8.Nxb6 axb6 9.c3 0-0 10.0-0 exf4 11.Bxf4 Nh5 12.Qd2 Nxf4 13.Qxf4 Bxf3 14.Rxf3 Ne5 15.Rg3 Kh8 16.Bb3 Ra5 17.Rf1 Qe7 Kuijf,M (2465)-Leventic,I (2400) Mitropa Cup 16th 1995 (8) 1-0]
3...Nc6
[3...c6 4.Nc3 g6 5.d3 Bg7 6.h3 0-0 7.g4 d6 8.Nge2 Be6 9.Ng3 b5 10.Bb3 b4 11.Nd1 d5 12.Ne3 a5 13.g5 dxe4 14.dxe4 Nfd7 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Qg4 Qe7 17.Nc4 c5 18.Be3 8.♕c2 a6 9.♖d1 ♕c7 10.î (2359)-Janssen,H (2287) Doeberl Cup 42nd 2004 (5) 1-0]
4.Ne2 Be7N
[4...Bc5 5.a3 d6 6.0-0 Bg4 7.Qd3 Nh5 8.h3 Bxe2 9.Qxe2 Nf4 10.Qe1 Nd4 11.Bb3 Nxh3+ 12.Kh2 Qh4 13.g3 Nf3+ 14.Kg2 Nxe1+ 15.Rxe1 Qg4 16.d3 Bxf2 17.Rh1 Qxg3+ 18.Kf1 Bd4 19.Ke2 Chapter Part-Games Chapter Part 3 (8) Qg2+ 20.Kd1 Qxh1+ 21.Kd2 Qg2+ 22.Ke1 Ng1 23.Nc3 Bxc3+ 24.bxc3 Qe2# Otero-Queens Gambit Cd5 Bradford 1888 0-1]
5.Nbc3 0-0 6.d3 Nd4 7.Nxd4 exd4 8.Nd5 The position is equal. **8...Nxd5 9.Bxd5 c6 10.Bb3 a5 11.a4 d6** 0.40/21
[11...Bb4+!= -0.29/22 12.Ke2 Qe7]
12.0-0± Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Qh3 e5 15.f4 exf4 16.Qe6+! Kh8 17.Bxf4 Rf6 18.Qb3 White is more active. **18...Qd7 19.Bd2** 0.09/22
[19.Qb6± 0.95/23]
19...h6 20.Qc4 c5 0.76/23
[20...Raf8= 0.20/21 remains equal.]
21.Rxf6± Bxf6 22.Rf1 Kh7 23.Qd5 Strongly threatening Bd2-f4. **23...Re8!**



24.Rxf6 0.00/25 **gxf6±** Endgame. KQR-KQB **25.Qh5 Re5 26.Qxh6+ Kg8 27.Qxf6 Qg4** Repels Qf6-g6+ **28.Qf1** Prevents Qg4-d1. **28...Rh5! 29.Bf4**
[29.Bxa5 Rh7±]
29...Qe6 0.82/25
[29...d5± 0.31/23]
30.Qf3 Rh7 31.b3 Rf7!



32.h3 0.64/20
[White must play 32.Qg3+!+- 1.73/22 Rg7 33.Qf3]
32...Qf6? 2.31/24 Loses the game.
[Black should play 32...d5!± 0.64/20]
33.Qg4++- Kf8? 4.20/21
[33...Qg7 2.18/23 34.Qxg7+ *(34.Bxd6 Qxg4 35.hxg4 b6±)* 34...Rxg7 35.Bxd6 Rd7]
34.g3 b6 35.Kg2 Rg7 36.Qf5 Rf7 37.Qd5 Rd7 38.h4 Kg7 39.h5 Qf7 40.Qg5+
[40.Bxd6? loses. Qxd5 41.exd5 Rxd6-+]
40...Kh7 41.Qh6+ Kg8 42.Bxd6 Qh7 43.Qf8#
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.56
1-0

C24
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2832**
■ **Le,Tuan Minh** **2564**
Julius Baer GenCup P/I m D1 rapid (2.1)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 a5 6.a4 Bb4+ 7.c3 Bd6 8.exd5 The position is equal. **8...cxd5 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Na3 Nc6**
[10...Nbd7 11.Nb5 Bb8 12.d4 e4 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nf1 h6 15.Bh4 Bf4 16.h3 Re8 17.g3 Bb8 18.g4 Nf8 19.Ne3 Ng6 20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Bxd5 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Qg5 23.c4 Bf4 24.Qb3 h5 25.Ne3 Gazi,M (2804)-Panov Botvinnik Attack (2773) TCh-Playoffs 2001 (2) 0-1]
[10...h6 11.Bh4 Nc6 12.Nb5 Bb8 13.Qe2 0-0 14.h3 Qd7 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.g4 Ra6 17.Rg1 Na7 18.g5 fxg5 19.Nxg5 Kh8 20.Nxe6 Rxe6 21.Na3 Rb6 22.Ba2 Nc8 23.0-0-0 Ne7 24.Nb5 Rf6 25.Qe3 Salman,F (2752)-Duerr,H (2503) Chicago op 19th 2010 (10) 1-0]
11.Nb5 Bb8 12.Qe2N An interesting side line .Eine interessante Nebenvariante.
[12.d4 e4 13.Nd2 h6 14.Bh4 Ne7 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.f3 f5 17.Qe2 Ng6 18.g3 Ra6 19.0-0-0 0-0 20.Kb1 Rc6 21.f4 Qf6 22.Nf1 Kh7 23.Ne3 Ne7 24.Rdf1 Rg8 25.Rhg1 Rcc8 26.Ka1 Rcd8 Chapter Become A Hitter-Seul, G]
12...0-0 13.0-0-0 Re8 14.Rhe1 h6 15.Bh4 d4 16.Qc2N
[Vorgänger: 16.Bc2 dxc3 17.bxc3 Na7 18.d4 Nxb5 19.Qxb5 Qd7 0.64/21 *(19...Qd5= 0.23/20)* 20.dxe5 -0.07/20 *(20.Qxd7!± 0.64/21 Nxd7*

21.dxe5) 20...Qxb5= 21.axb5 Nd5 22.Rd3 Rapport,R (2654)-Dardha,D (2528) Wch Blitz Almaty 2022 (15) ½-½]

16...Bxb3 17.Qxb3 Ba7 18.Kb1 dxc3 19.bxc3 Bb6 20.Nd2 Bc5 0.92/20

[20...Qxd3+= 0.07/20 21.Ka1 Qg6]

21.Bxf6± Deflection **21...Qxf6** 1.37/20

[⌓21...gxf6 0.85/22 22.Ne4 Be7]

22.Nc7 Qg6 23.Ne4

[23.Qxb7? Reb8-+ *(23...Qxd3+? 24.Kb2-+; 23...Qxd3+? 24.Ka1-+)*]

23...Be7 24.Re3 White is much more active.

[24.Qxb7? Rab8-+]

24...Kh8 25.Nxa8

[25.Qxb7? Rab8-+]

25...Rxa8 26.Rg3

[26.Qxb7? Rb8-+]

26...Qh5 27.Rf3 Rf8 1.84/20

[27...f6± 1.41/21 keeps fighting. 28.h3 *(28.Qxb7? Rb8-+* Pin *)* 28...Qe8]

28.Ng3 0.76/21

[28.Qxb7? Rb8-+]

[28.h3!+- 1.84/20 has better winning chances.]

28...Qg6 29.Nf5

[29.Qxb7? Rb8-+]

29...Bg5 1.28/20

[29...Qxg2± 0.67/21 30.Qd5 Qxh2]

30.g4

[30.Qxb7? Rb8-+]

30...Bf4 1.45/21

[⌓30...Qf6 0.93/19 31.Qc4 *(31.Qxb7? Rb8-+* Pin *)* 31...Rc8]

31.h3

[31.Qxb7? Rb8-+ *(31...Bxh2 32.Ka1±; 31...Bxh2 32.Ka1±)*]

31...Rb8 1.80/19

[31...Bg5± 1.31/20 32.Ng3 *(32.Qxb7? Rb8-+* Pin *)* 32...Bf4]

32.Kc2 1.20/19

[32.Ka2+- 1.80/19]

32...Na7 2.47/20

[32...Bg5± 1.20/19 33.Kb2 Kg8]

33.Qd5 f6? 4.07/23

[33...Nc6 2.43/20 might work better. 34.Qd6 Qe6 35.Qxe6 fxe6]

34.Rb1

[34.Qxa5 Qf7 35.Ra1 *(35.Qxa7? Qa2#)* 35...Nc6±]

34...Qe8 35.Qxa5 Nc6 36.Qc7 0.73/25

[36.Qb5+- 2.42/21]

36...Qg8? 3.97/23

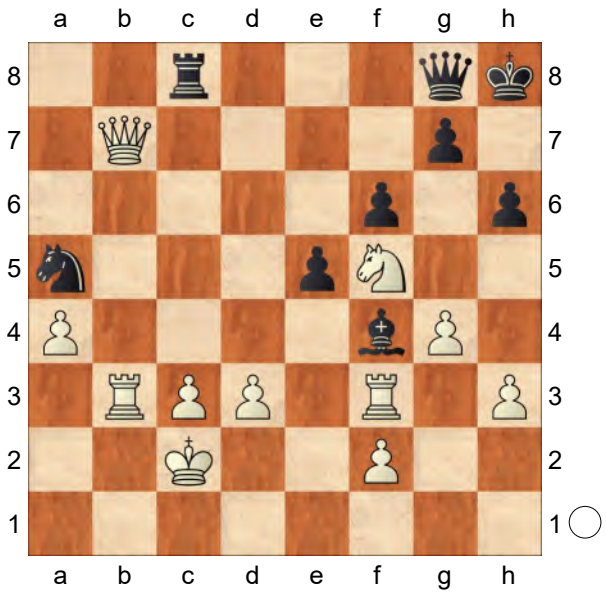
[36...Nd4+± 0.73/25 is tougher. 37.Kb2 *(37.cxd4? Rc8-+)* 37...Nxf5 38.gxf5 Ra8]

37.Rb3 2.24/22

[37.Rxb7? Qa2+]

[⌓37.c4 3.97/23]

37...Rc8 38.Qxb7 Na5



39.Ne7! Nxb7 40.Nxg8 Rc7

(Diagram)

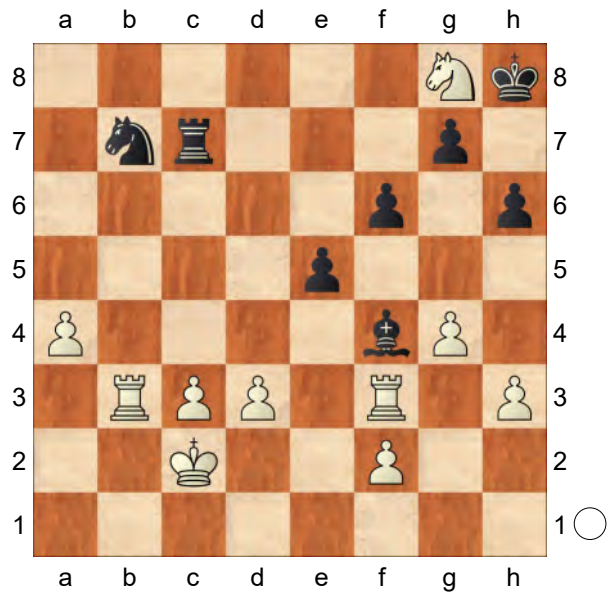
Dodges Ng8-e7 **41.Nxf6 gxf6 42.d4 Kg7 43.Rb5** 1.20/21

[43.Rb6+- 2.18/20]

43...Nd6 1.77/21

[43...Bh2± 1.20/21]

44.Rc5 0.84/22



[44.Rd5+- 1.77/21 and White stays clearly on top. Ne4 45.h4]

44...Ra7 45.a5 Ne4 46.Rb5 Ng5 47.Rd3 e4 48.Rd1 And now Rd1-b1 would win. **48...Nxh3 49.Rf1 Kg6 50.c4 Bc7** 2.25/21

[50...Ng5± 1.60/19 51.Re1 Kf7]

51.Ra1? 0.20/22

[51.c5!+- 2.25/21]

51...Nxf2= 52.a6 Hoping for Rb5-b7. **52...Bf4**

[52...Nxg4 53.Rb7 Rxb7 54.axb7±]

53.Rb7 Ra8 54.Re7 0.03/18

[54.a7± 0.60/19]

54...Nxg4 0.63/19

[54...Kg5= 0.03/18]

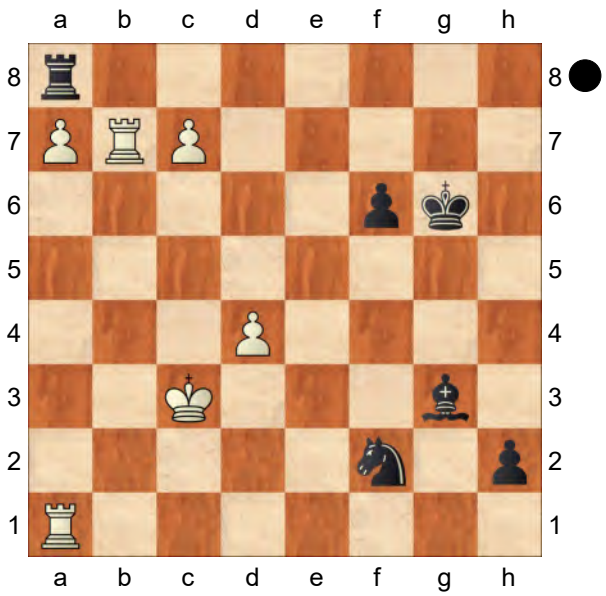
55.Rxe4± Kf5 56.Re7 White has strong compensation. **56...h5 57.a7!** Strongly threatening Ra1-h1. **57...h4 58.Rh7** Against h4-h3 **58...Bg3 59.Kc3** 0.01/22

[White should try 59.c5± 1.31/17]

59...Kg6= 60.Rb7 h3 61.c5 h2 62.c6 Nf2 aiming for ...Nf2-e4+. **63.c7** -1.04/21

[63.Kc4= 0.00/19]

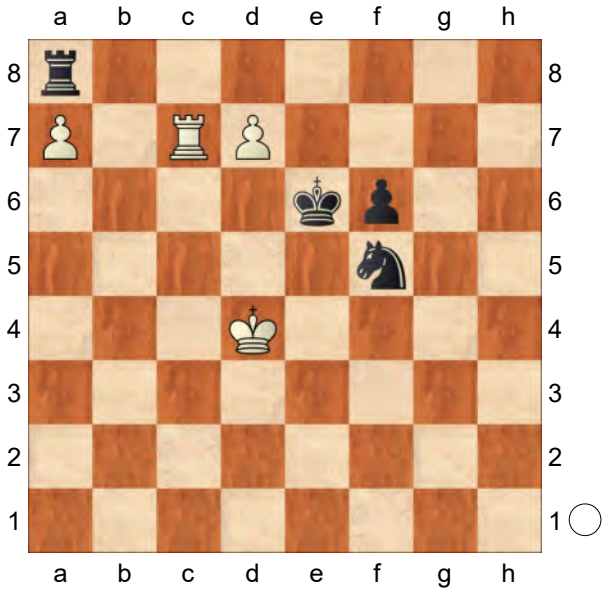
(Diagram)



63...Bxc7! 0.01/18 **64.Rxc7 h1Q** Prevents d4-d5. **65.Rxh1 Nxh1** Endgame. KRN-KR **66.d5** d5-d6 would now be deadly. **66...Ng3 67.Kd4 Kf5 68.d6 Ke6?** 3.08/25 White leaves nothing to chance now.

[68...Ne4!± 0.32/24]

69.d7+- Rc7-b7 is the strong threat. **69...Nf5+**



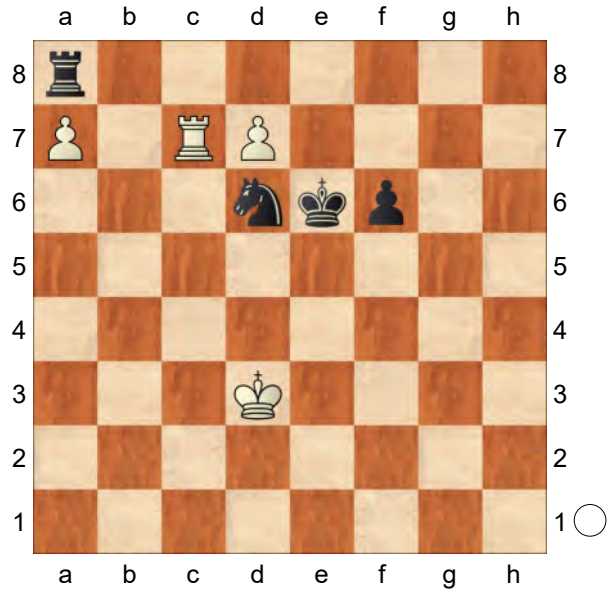
70.Kd3? 0.37/21

[70.Kc3!+- 3.05/25 Nd6 71.Rc8 Rxa7 72.d8Q *(72.d8R Nxc8 73.Rxc8 Rd7∓)* 72...Nxc8 73.Qxc8+

Kf7 74.Qc4+ Kg7 75.Qc5]

70...Nd6? 3.19/23

[Black should play 70...Ne7± 0.37/21]



Against Rc7-c8 **71.Rc8! Rxa7**

[71...Nxc8 72.d8Q]

72.d8Q

[Worse is 72.d8R Nxc8 73.Rxc8 Re7=]

72...Nxc8 73.Qxc8+ KQ-KR **73...Rd7+?** 10.32/32

[73...Kf7 3.33/27 74.Qc4+ Kg7]

74.Ke4 Ke7 75.Qc5+ Ke6 76.Qc4+ Ke7 77.Kf5 Kd6 78.Kxf6 Rc7 79.Qd4+ Kc6 80.Ke6 Kb7 81.Qb4+ Kc8 82.Qb5 Rb7 83.Qc6+ Kb8 84.Kd6 Ka7 85.Qc5+ Kb8 86.Qa5 Ra7 87.Qb6+ Rb7 88.Qd8+ Ka7 89.Qa5+ 10.12/5

[⌓89.Kc6 #8/18 Rh7 90.Qd4+ Kb8 91.Qe5+ Ka7 92.Qa1+ Kb8 93.Qb1+ Ka7 94.Qxh7+ Ka6 95.Qb7+ Ka5 96.Qb5#]

89...Kb8 90.Kc6 Rh7 91.Qb4+ Ka7 92.Qa3+ 10.12/5

[⌓92.Qd4+ #7/16 Kb8 93.Qe5+ Ka7 94.Qa1+ Kb8 95.Qb1+ Ka7 96.Qxh7+ Ka6 97.Qb7+ Ka5 98.Qb5#]

92...Kb8 93.Qb3+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.28 (precise)

1-0

C23

□ **Aronian,Levon** **2730**

■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2734**

Chess.com Play In Match Div 1 rapid (2.3)

[Kitty Kat]

C23: Bishop's Opening: 2...Bc5

By winning the last round at the Berlin FIDE Grand Prix, Nakamura qualified for the 2022 Candidates Tournament in a convincing way. This decisive game shows one of his biggest qualities, in my opinion: his resourceful defensive play and ability to keep the control in tense positions .Durch seinen Sieg in der letzten Runde des Berlin FIDE Grand Prix qualifizierte sich Nakamura auf überzeugende Weise für das Kandidatenturnier 2022. Diese entscheidende Partie zeigt meiner Meinung nach eine seiner größten Qualitäten: sein einfallsreiches Verteidigungsspiel und seine Fähigkeit, in angespannten Stellungen die Kontrolle zu behalten. **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Qf3 Nc6 4.Ne2 Na5 5.d3 Nxc4 6.dxc4 d6 7.Nbc3 Be7**

[7...Be6 8.b3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.a4 Nd7 11.a5 a6 12.Ng3 Bg5 13.Nf5 Bxc1 14.Raxc1 g6 15.Ne3 c6 16.Ra1 Qe7 17.Qd1 Rad8 18.Qd2 Nf6 19.f4 exf4 20.Rxf4 Nh5 21.Rf3 Qg5 22.Raf1 Esipenko,A (2723)-Nakamura,H (2750) Berlin FIDE GP 3 Pool-A 2022 (6) 0-1]

8.Ng3 Bg4N

[8...0-0 9.0-0 *(9.Nf5 c6 10.Nxe7+ Qxe7 11.Bg5 Qe6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Qxf6 gxf6 14.0-0-0 Be6 15.Rxd6 Rfd8 16.Rhd1 Rxd6 17.Rxd6 Kf8 18.b3 Ke7 19.Rd2 Rg8 20.f3 f5 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.a4 a5 23.Nd1 Rd8* Wanderer,T-Kopinits,A Graz op 2006 (3) 0-1*)* 9...c6 10.Nf5 Bxf5 11.Qxf5 g6 12.Qf3 Nh5 13.Bh6 Ng7 14.Rad1 Qc8 15.Rd3 f5 16.Qh3 Rf7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Rfd1 Qe6 19.exf5 gxf5 20.Ne4 Rd8 21.Qg3+ Kh8 22.Ng5 Bxg5 23.Qxg5 Sowray,P (2335)-Jirka,J (2400) 4NCL/Div1/ADs-WG 2008 (11.4) ½-½]

9.Qd3 g6 10.b3 Be6 11.Bh6 Ng4 12.Bd2 h5 13.f3 Nf6 14.0-0-0 Nd7 15.Kb2 Nc5 16.Qf1 h4 17.Nge2

[17.Be3!?]

17...c6 18.f4 -0.56/20

[18.Kb1= 0.10/17]

18...exf4 0.44/19

[18...Qb6∓ -0.56/20]

19.Bxf4± Qc7 20.Nd4 0.00/19

[20.h3± 0.41/20]

20...0-0-0 0.42/19

[20...Bg4= 0.00/19 21.Rd2 h3]

21.h3 Kb8 0.81/18

[21...Rh5± 0.36/20]

22.Bh2± Rhf8 23.Qf3 Bc8 24.Rhe1 Threatens to win with e4-e5. **24...Ka8** 1.80/17

[24...Be6± 0.93/19 might work better.]

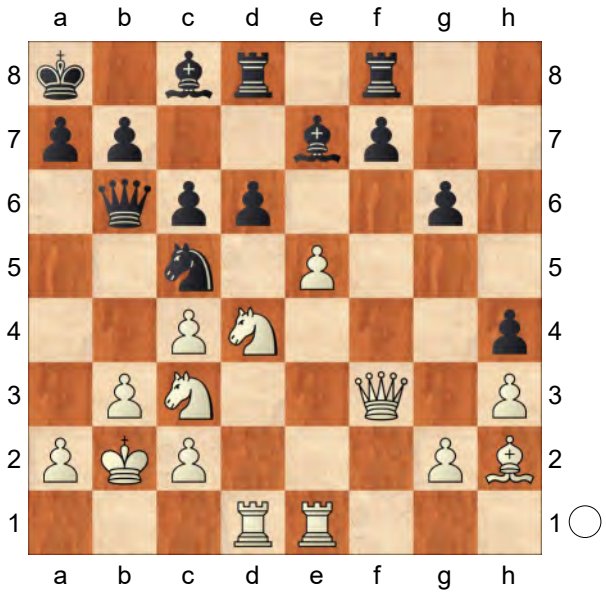
25.e5!+- e5xd6 would now be deadly.

25...Qb6

(Diagram)

26.Nxc6 -1.70/19 **Qxc6-+ 27.exd6 Bg5** -0.42/21

[27...Qxf3∓ -1.41/23 28.dxe7 Qf6 *(28...Qxg2? 29.Rxd8+-)* 29.exf8Q



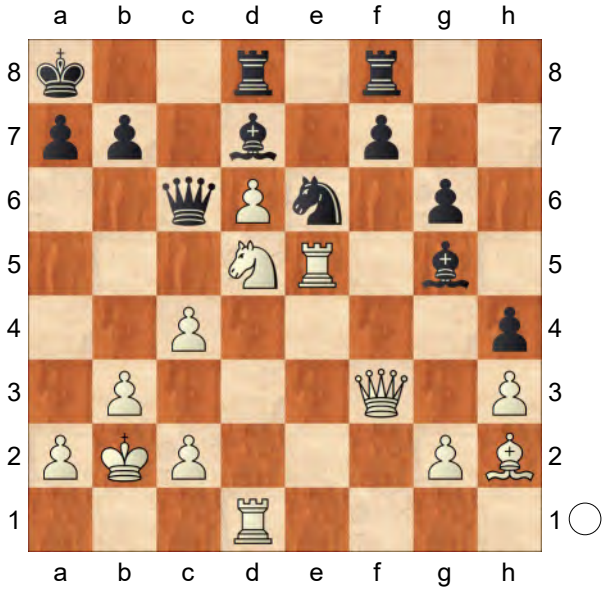
Rxf8]

28.Nd5 Bd7 0.00/25

[Black should play 28...Na6!∓ -0.74/23]

29.Re5= Ne6 1.37/19

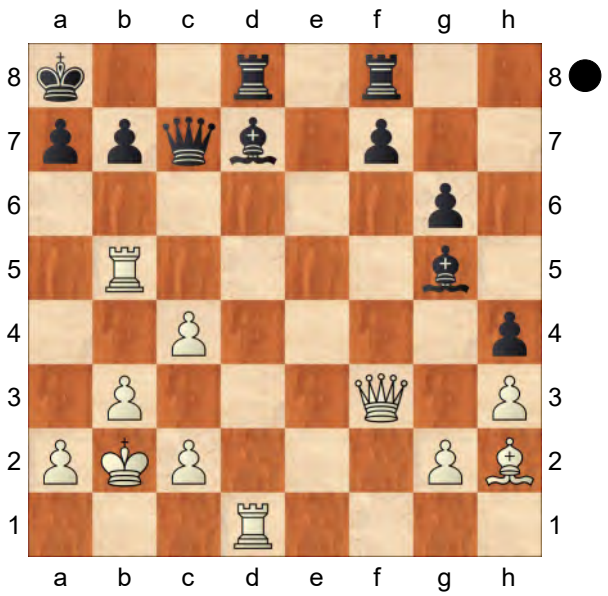
[29...Qxd6= 0.00/25 30.Nc3 Bd2 31.Rxd2 Qxd2 32.Rxc5 Bf5]



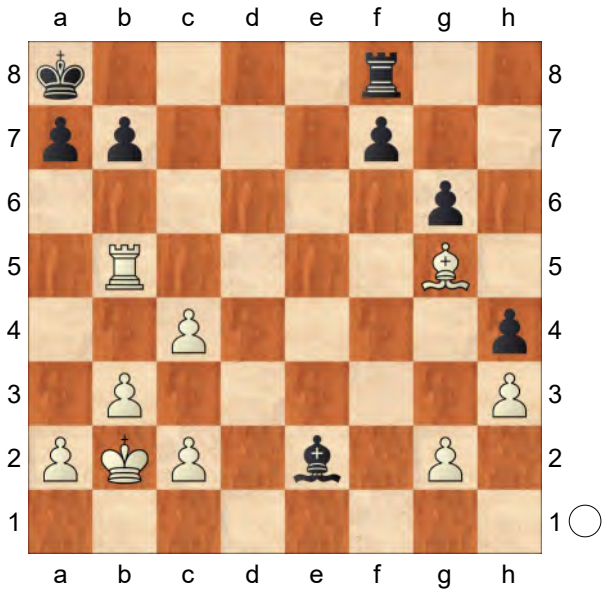
30.Nc7+!± Nxc7 31.dxc7 Qxc7 Strongly threatening ...Bd7-c6. **32.Rb5?** -0.14/24

[32.Rxg5± 1.48/25 Qxh2 33.Rgd5]

(Diagram)



Some like it hot. White has more active pieces. **32...Bc6?** 2.57/23 **33.Bxc7+-** Rd1xd8+ is the strong threat. **33...Bxf3** This pair of bishops is nice. **34.Bxd8 Bxd1 35.Bxg5** Endgame. KRB-KRB **35...Be2**



36.Bxh4 1.02/21
[36.Rd5!+- 2.41/25 is the precise move to win.]
36...Bf1± 37.g3 0.50/22
[37.Rg5± 0.94/21]
37...f6± 38.g4 g5 39.Rf5 Bxh3 40.Bxg5 Pin **40...Bxg4 41.Rf4**
[41.Rxf6 Rxf6 42.Bxf6 b6±]
41...f5 42.a4 Kb8 43.a5 a6 44.Rd4 Kc8 45.Kc3 Bf3 46.Rd6 Be4 47.Bf4 Rd8 48.Rh6 Kd7 49.Rh7+ Ke6! The position is equal. **50.b4 Rg8 51.b5 Rg4 52.Bb8 axb5 53.Rh6+ Kd7 54.cxb5 Rg2 55.Kd4 Rxc2 56.Ba7 Ke7 57.Ke5** And now Rh6-h7+ would win. **57...Kf7 58.Rf6+ Kg7 59.Bd4 Ra2 60.Kf4 Kh7 61.a6 bxa6 62.bxa6 Ra4 63.Rd6 Kg8 64.a7 Kf7 65.Kg5 Ke7 66.Bc5** aiming for Rd6-a6+. **66...Kf7 67.Rb6 Ke8 68.Rd6** Hoping for Kg5-f6. **68...Kf7 69.Kf4 Kg7 70.Bd4+ Kf7 71.Bc5 Kg7 72.Re6 Bd5+ 73.Bd4+ Rxd4+=** KRB-KR **74.Ke5! Ra4 75.Kxd5**
[75.Re7+ keeps more tension. Kf8 76.Rc7 Be4 77.Rc8+]
75...Rxa7 76.Ke5 Kf7 77.Rf6+ Ke7 (-> ...Ra7-a5+) **78.Rxf5 Ra5+ 79.Kf4 Rxf5+ 80.Kxf5**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.24 (precise)
½-½

C27

□ **Rapport,Richard**	**2720**
■ **Ding,Liren**	**2762**
Karlsruhe Grenke (7)	30.03.2024

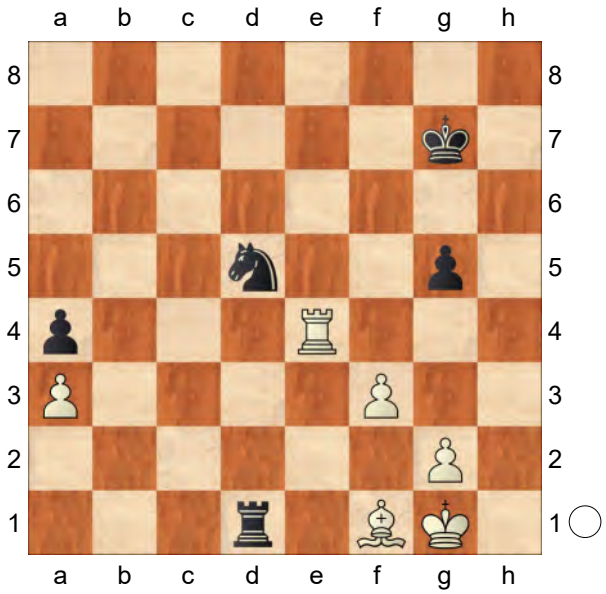
[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4
Birmingham Mercury 13 May 1854. Opening moves of pending corr game (arranged through the paper), Jacoi of Norwich v Philidor of London. Jacoi had also looked for a corr. opponent in Home Circle.
Continuation of game appeared anonymously in the Norfolk News of 30 May 1863. **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3**

Bc5 4.Nge2N
[4.Nf3 d6 5.h3 c6 6.d3 Be6 7.Bb3 0-0 8.Ne2 Qb6 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Ng3 d5 11.Qe2 d4 12.Nh2 h6 13.f4 Bd6 14.f5 Bxb3 15.axb3 Kh7 16.Nh5 g5 17.Nf3 Rg8 18.Nxf6+ Nxf6 Jacoi-Philidor Birmingham Mercury challenge 1854 1-0]
[4.d3
A) 4...Nc6 5.Bg5 h6 *(5...Na5 6.Nd5 Nxc4 7.dxc4 Bxf2+ 8.Kf1 Nxd5 9.Qxd5 Qxg5 10.Kxf2 Qh4+ 11.Ke2 d6 12.Nf3 Qg4 13.Kf2 Qe6 14.Qd3 0-0 15.b3 f5 16.Rhe1 Qg6 17.Kg1 fxe4 18.Qxe4 Qxe4 19.Rxe4 b6 20.Re3* Robertson,C-Trussler,P BPCF Club ch 1994 0-1*)* 6.Bh4 g5 7.Bg3 h5 8.h4 g4 9.Qd2 d6 10.Nge2 Qe7 11.0-0 a6 12.Nd5 Nxd5 13.exd5 Nd4 14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.c3 Bb6 16.d4 f6 17.Rfe1 Bd7 18.a4 0-0-0 19.a5 Santhosh,M-K,L USSR 35/544 1983;
B) 4...c6 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 Nbd7 8.a3 Bb6 9.Ba2 Re8 10.Re1 Nf8 11.Be3 Be6 12.d4 Bxa2 13.Rxa2 exd4 14.Bxd4 Ba5 15.b4 Bb6 16.Ra1 Ne6 17.Bxb6 axb6 18.a4 Qc7 Amin,B (2694)-Yu, Y (2735) Biel 56th 2023 (7) ½-½]
4...0-0 5.0-0 c6 6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 d5 8.exd5 White has an edge. **8...cxd5 9.Bb3 Bg4 10.f3 Nc6 11.Nce2** -0.27/23
[⌓11.Be3! 0.15/21 Re8 12.Bf2]
11...Bh5 12.c3 Re8 13.Bg5 Bg6 14.Kh1 Qb6 0.79/20
[14...Ne5= 0.08/19]
15.Bxf6± gxf6 16.Nf4! Excellent horsemanship. **16...Ne7 17.Qd2**
[17.Bxd5 Rad8 18.Be4 f5∓]
17...Kg7 1.31/18
[⌓17...a5 0.85/21]
18.Rfe1 0.74/19 White is more active.
[18.Nxd5 Nxd5 19.Bxd5 Rad8-+]
[18.Bxd5 Red8 19.Be4 Bxd4 20.cxd4 Qxd4 21.Qxd4 Rxd4=]
[White should try 18.g4 1.31/18]
18...Bxd4 19.Qxd4 Qxd4 20.cxd4 Nf5 21.Red1 Rad8 22.Rac1
[22.Nxd5?! Re2=]
[22.Bxd5 Rd7= *(22...Ne3 23.Re1∓)*]
22...Ne3 23.Re1 Nc4 1.89/20
24.Rxe8+- Rxe8 25.h4!
[25.Nxd5 Nxb2 26.h4 a5±]
25...b5 26.Nxd5 0.99/22
[26.h5+- 1.67/23 Bf5 27.Nxd5]
26...Nxb2 1.95/19
[26...Rd8± 0.99/22]
27.Rc7! a5 28.Nf4! a4 29.Bd5 Black must now prevent Kh1-h2.
29...Nd3 30.Nxg6 hxg6 31.Rxf7+ Endgame. KRB-KRN
[31.Bxf7?! Re1+ 32.Kh2 Rc1±]
31...Kh6 2.27/21
[31...Kh8± 1.19/23 was necessary.]
32.Rxf6 Kh1-h2 is the strong threat.
32...Rd8 33.Bc6 Kg7 34.Re6 Rxd4 35.Bxb5 Rxh4+ 36.Kg1 Rd4 37.a3 Re6-e7+ would now be deadly. **37...g5?** 4.45/22
[37...Nb2± 1.53/19 38.Be8 g5]
38.Re3? 0.17/24
[38.Re4+- 4.45/22 Rxe4 39.fxe4]
38...Nf4= 39.Re4 Rd1+ 40.Bf1 Nd5 1.42/23
[40...Ra1= 0.08/21]

(Diagram)

41.Kf2!±
[Don't play 41.Rxa4?! Ne3 42.Kf2 *(42.Ra7+ Kf6=)* 42...Nxf1=]
41...Rd2+ 42.Kg3? 0.05/23



[Better is 42.Ke1+- 1.86/22 Ra2 43.Re5 *(43.Rxa4 Ne3±)* 43...Ra1+ 44.Kf2]

42...Rd1 1.97/23

[42...Kf6= 0.05/23]

43.Bc4 aiming for Bc4xd5. **43...Nf4** 2.78/22

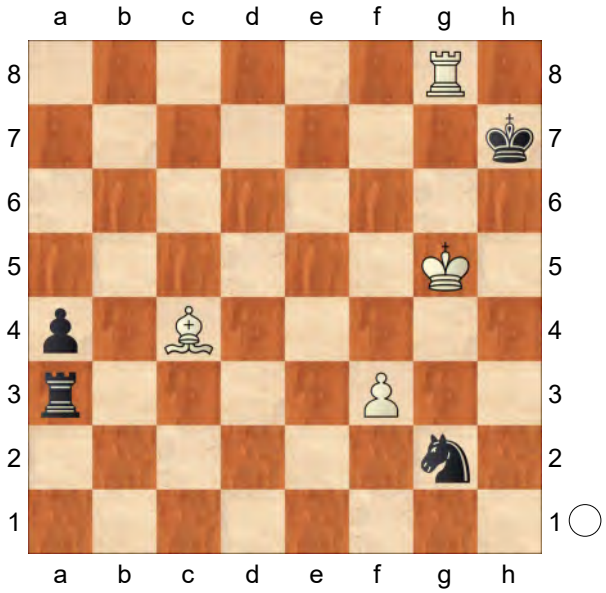
[⌓43...Nc3 1.84/20 44.Re3 Rc1]

44.Kg4+- Nxg2 45.Kxg5 Hoping for Re4-e7+. **45...Ra1?** 4.31/21

[45...Rc1 1.82/19]

46.Re8 White is clearly winning.

46...Rxa3 47.Rg8+ Kh7



48.Rf8! Rc3 49.Rf7+ Kg8 50.Be6 And now Rf7-c7+ would win. **50...Re3 51.Bd5 a3 52.Kh6 Rd3 53.Bc4** Rf7-f6+ would kill now. **53...Ne3 54.Rg7+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.41

[54.Bxd3? loses. Kxf7 55.Bb1 Kf6-+]

1-0

C27

□ **Erigaisi,Arjun Kumar 2778**
■ **Paravyan,David 2608**

CrunchLab Masters Div 3 W rapid (3.2)
[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4 John Emms: 'Although I'm recommending 4...0-0 as an ambitious way of dealing with the idea of 5 f4, those who wish to really discourage f2-f4 can also consider another solution:'

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 c6

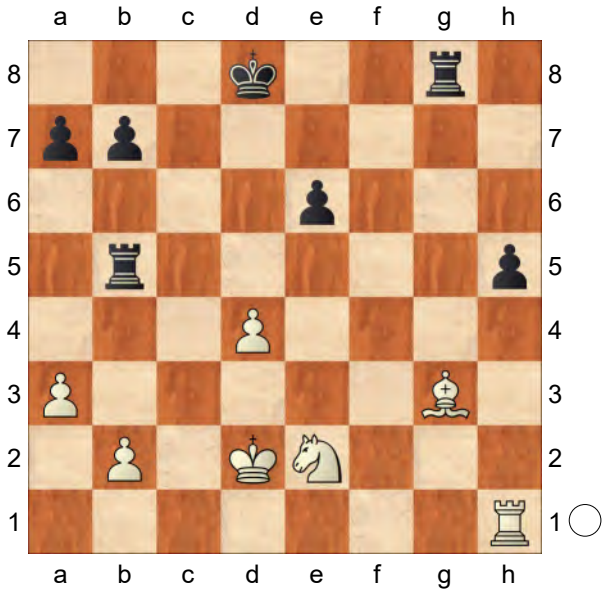
[4...h6 5.f4 Nc6 6.Nf3 d6 7.Na4 Bb6 8.Nxb6 axb6 9.0-0 Bg4 10.c3 exf4 11.Bxf4 Ne5 12.Bxe5 dxe5 13.Bxf7+ Kf8 14.Bc4 Qe7 15.h3 Bh5 16.Qe1 b5 17.Bb3 Rd8 18.Nxe5 Qxe5 19.d4 Dutch Defense: Leningrad Vari,7 (2552)-8...b4 9.---(izt) 49/239 1990 (1) 1-0]

5.f4 exf4N

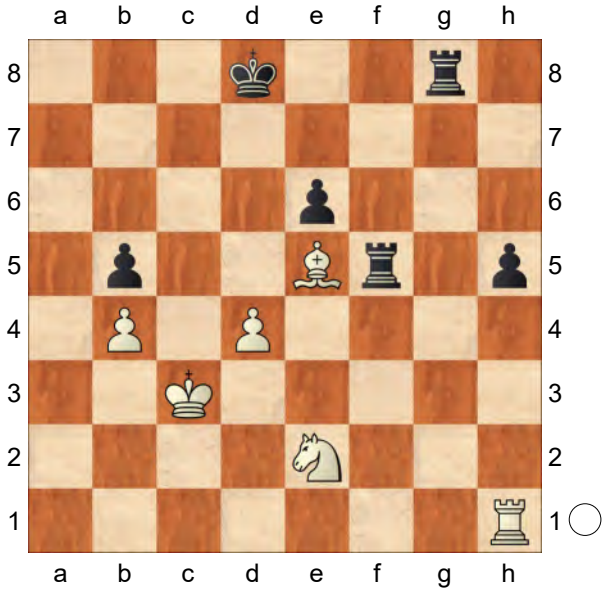
[5...d5 6.exd5 Ng4 7.Ne4 Bxg1 8.dxc6 Nxc6 9.Rxg1 Qh4+ 10.g3 Qxh2 11.Kf1 f5 A Second Solution:-Black Plays 4...c6 2008]

[5...d6 6.Nf3 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Qd4 Lesson 10: 2nd Move Sidelines-2nd Move Sidelines: 2. Bc4 #1]

6.e5 d5 7.exf6 Qxf6
[7...dxc4 is more complex. 8.fxg7 Rg8 9.Qe2+ Be6]
8.Qe2+ The position is equal. **8...Kd8** And now ...Rh8-e8! would win. **9.Bxd5 cxd5 10.Qf3!**
[10.Nxd5 Qf5 *(10...Qh4+ 11.Kf1∓)* 11.Qf3 Re8+ 12.Kd1 g5∓]
10...Qe6+ 11.Nge2 g5 0.50/18
[11...Nc6= 0.06/19 12.Kd1 g5]
12.h4± Nc6 aiming for ...Nc6-d4.
13.Qxd5+
[13.hxg5? Nd4 14.Qxf4 Re8-+ *(14...Nxc2+? 15.Kd1∓)*]
13...Qxd5 14.Nxd5 Be6 0.76/21
[14...Re8!= -0.02/22 remains equal. 15.Nf6 *(15.hxg5? Bg4-+)* 15...Re5]
15.Nf6± Excellent horsemanship.
15...gxh4 16.Bxf4 Nd4 0.76/20
[16...Be7= 0.22/21 17.Bg5 h3 18.gxh3 h6]
17.Ne4 0.14/20
[17.Rxh4? Nxc2+ 18.Kd2 Nxa1-+]
[White should try 17.Nxd4± 0.76/20 Bxd4 18.Ne4]
17...Nxc2+ 1.47/22
[17...Nxe2= 0.14/20 18.Be5 *(18.Kxe2 Be7=)* 18...Rg8 19.Nxc5 *(19.Kxe2 Rxg2+ 20.Kf3 Rxc2∓)* 19...Rxg2]
18.Kd2 Nxa1 19.Nxc5 Rg8 Wards off Bf4-g5+ **20.Nxe6+**
[Don't play 20.Rxa1 Rxg2 21.Nxe6+ *(21.Nxb7+ Ke7=)* 21...fxe6]
[20.Nxb7+ Ke7 21.Nc5 *(21.Rxa1 Rxg2 22.Ke3 h3=)* 21...Rxg2 22.Nxe6 *(22.Rxa1? Bg4-+)* 22...Kxe6=]
[20.Rxh4 Rxg2 21.Nxe6+ fxe6∓]
20...fxe6 21.g3!
[Inferior is 21.Rxh4 Rxg2 22.Rxh7 Rc8 23.Rh8+ Kd7 24.Rh7+ Kc6∓]
21...hxg3 22.Bxg3
[22.Rxa1 g2 23.Bh2 Kd7=]
22...Rc8 White must now prevent ...Rc8-c2+. **23.Rxa1 Rc5 24.Rh1 h5 25.d4 Ra5 26.a3 Rb5**



27.b4 Bg3-e5 would now be deadly. **27...a5 28.Kc3** Strongly threatening Bg3-e5. **28...axb4+ 29.axb4** Threatens to win with Bg3-e5. **29...Rf5 30.Be5 b5** 2.28/22
[30...Rg4± 1.44/21]

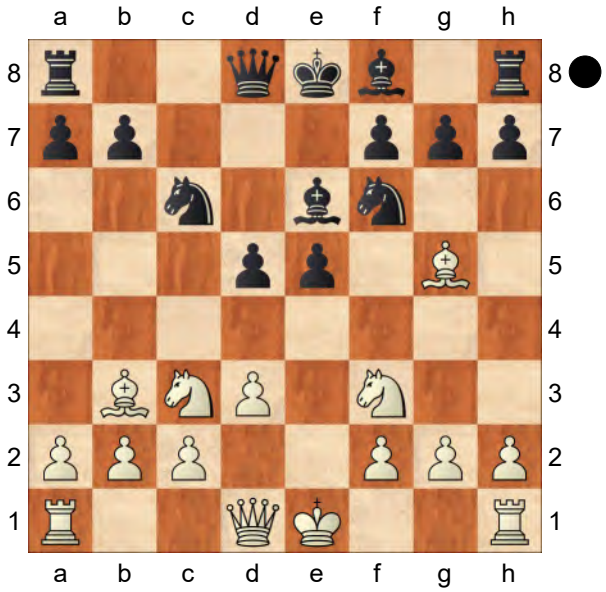


31.Kd3!+- Rg4 32.Ke3 Prevents Rf5-f3+ **32...h4 33.Nc3 Rh5 34.Ne4 Rg2**

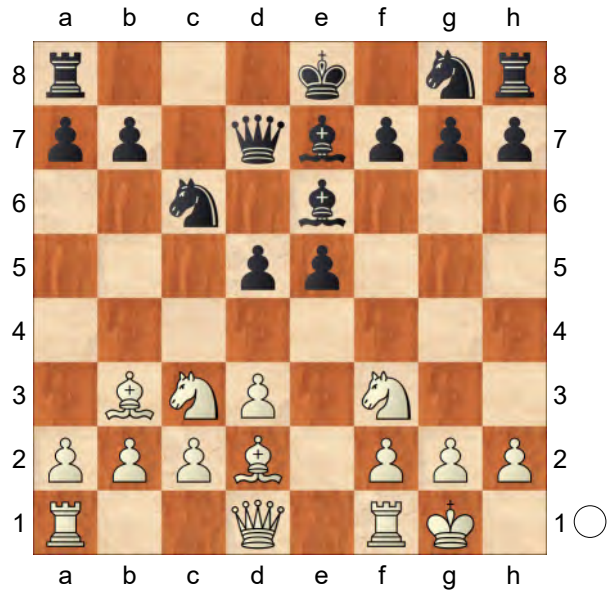
2.74/22
[⌓34...Rg6 1.90/23 35.Kf3 Rgh6]
35.Nc5 h3? 6.02/26
[35...Rh6 1.94/23 36.Bf4 Rh5 37.Nxe6+ Ke7]
36.Nxe6+ White is clearly winning.
36...Kd7 37.Nf4 Rg3+ 38.Kf2 Rhg5 39.Rxh3 Rxh3 40.Nxh3 Rg8 41.Nf4 Ra8 42.d5 Ra3 43.Ke2 Rb3 44.Nd3 Nd3-c5+ would kill now. **44...Rb1 45.Ke3**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.40
1-0

C24
□ **Paravyan,David** **2620**
■ **Deac,Bogdan Daniel** **2680**
Titled Tuesday intern op 24th Sep Late blitz (10)
[Kitty Kat]

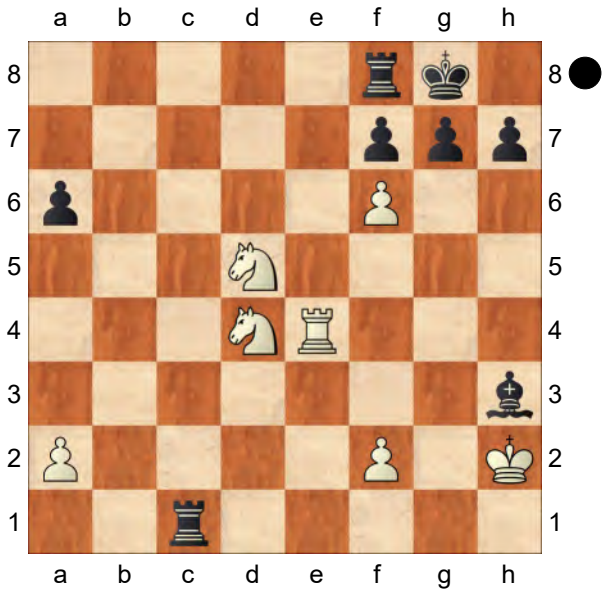
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Bb3 d5 5.exd5 cxd5 6.Nf3 Nc6
[6...Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ 8.Qxd2 Nc6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 Qd6 11.h3 Re8 12.Nc3 a6 13.a4 d4 14.Ne2 h6 15.a5 Be6 16.Ba4 Bd5 17.Nh4 Re6 18.Nf5 Qc5 19.Neg3 Qxa5 20.c3 b5 21.Bb3 Bellaiche,A (2472)-Navara,D (2722) EU-ch 12th Aix les Bains 2011 (5) ½-½ Qb6 22.Bxd5 Nxd5 23.Nh5 Rg6 24.c4 bxc4 25.dxc4 Qb4 26.Qc1 Nf6 27.Nfxg7 Nxh5 28.Nxh5 Kh7 29.Qc2 Kh8 30.Qe2 Rag8 31.Ng3 a5 32.Kh1 Qb6 33.Ra3 f6 34.Rf3 Nb4 35.Qd2 Qc6 36.Nf5 Bellahcene,S (1900)-L'Hostis,L FRA-ch U18/20 Girls 2023 (2) 1-0]
7.Bg5N -0.46/18
[7.0-0= -0.09/21 Bd6 8.Bg5 Be6 9.Nc3 Bc7 10.Re1 0-0 *(10...a6)* 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Nh4 Kh8 15) 2.Bc4 Bishop's Opening-2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 #2]
7...Be6!? -0.02/20 Exploring less charted territory .Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.
[7...h6∓ -0.46/18 is more appropriate. 8.Bh4 a5]
8.Nc3 -0.98/21
[8.0-0!= -0.02/20 remains equal.]



8...Be7 -0.26/19
[8...h6!∓ -0.98/21 9.Bh4 g5]
9.0-0!= Black has an edge. **9...Ng8**
10.Bd2N
[Vorgänger: 10.Bxe7 Ngxe7 11.Ng5 -0.38/22 *(11.d4=* 0.03/21 is superior.*)* 11...0-0 12.f4 h6 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Qg4 -1.29/21 *(14.fxe5∓* -0.63/17 *Rxf1+ 15.Qxf1)* 14...Qd6 -0.50/22 *(* Better is *14...Qb6+∓* -1.29/21 *15.Kh1 Rf5)* 15.Rae1∓ Rf5 16.fxe5 Nxe5 0.00/21 Jonitz,J-Bender,S Karlsruhe U17 1992 (5) 0-1 *(16...Qc5+!∓* -0.65/20 *17.Kh1 Raf8 18.Rxf5 Rxf5)*]
10...Qd7 0.40/19
[10...Bf6= -0.29/21]



11.d4!± exd4 12.Nb5 Nf6 13.Nbxd4 0-0 0.94/21
[13...Bg4± 0.54/22 14.Nxc6 bxc6]
14.Re1 0.57/19
[14.Nxe6± 0.94/21 Qxe6 15.c3]
14...Bd6 1.19/21
[14...Nxd4± 0.57/19 15.Nxd4 Bg4]
15.Bc3 0.32/20
[White should play 15.Nxe6± 1.19/21 fxe6 16.c4]
15...Bg4 16.Nb5 aiming for Bc3xf6!
16...Be7 17.h3 Bh5 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Qxd5 Qxd5 20.Bxd5 Rad8 21.c4
[21.Rad1 simplifies Bxb2 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Nxa7 Ra8 24.Nxc6 Bxf3 25.gxf3 Rxa2 26.Re4]
21...Bxb2 22.Rab1 Bf6 23.g4
[23.Bxc6 simplifies bxc6 24.Nxa7 Bxf3 25.gxf3 Rd2 26.Nxc6 Bh4 27.Re4]
23...Bg6 ...a7-a6 would now be deadly.
24.g5? -1.93/20 Black keeps a firm grip on the game. **24...Bxb1-+ 25.gxf6** -2.71/20
[⌓25.Rxb1 -1.96/22 Be7 26.h4]
25...Bg6
[Don't play 25...Bxa2 26.Nc3 Nb4 *(26...Bb3? 27.Re7-+)* 27.Nxa2 Nxa2 28.Bxb7]
26.Re7 a6 27.Nc3 Rb8
[Don't take 27...gxf6 28.Rxb7 Rc8 29.Nd1-+]
28.Bxc6 bxc6 29.Ne5 Bf5 30.Nxc6 Rbc8 31.Nd4 Bxh3 32.Nd5 Rxc4 33.Re4 Rc1+ 34.Kh2

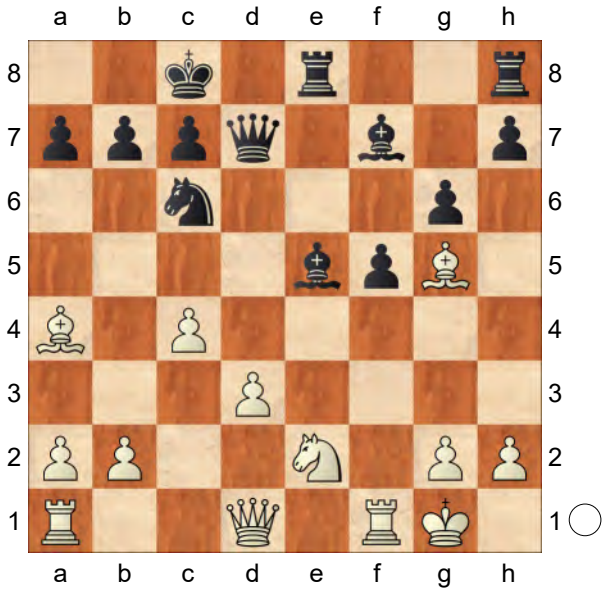


Be6 35.Ne7+
[35.Nxe6 fxe6]
35...Kh8 36.Rf4 gxf6 37.Rxf6 Kg7
[Resist 37...Bxa2 38.Rxa6 Be6 39.Rb6-+]
38.Rf4 Rd8 39.Nef5+ Bxf5 40.Nxf5+ Endgame. KRR-KRN **40...Kf8 41.Ra4 Rc6 42.Kg2 Rg6+ 43.Ng3 h5** White must now prevent ...Rg6-g4.
44.Kh3 Rd5 45.Rc4 Rf6 46.Kg2 Rg6 Weighted Error Value: White=0.34/ Black=0.18 (very precise)
0-1

C24

□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2788**
■ **Le,Quang Liem** **2731**
Titled Tuesday intern op 13th Feb Late blitz (9)
[Kitty Kat]

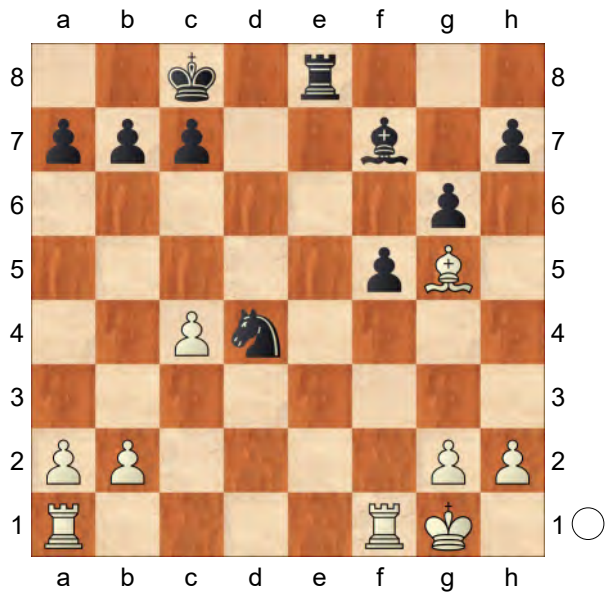
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Ne2
[4.h3 Na5 5.Bb3 Nxb3 6.axb3 d5 7.Qf3 Be7 8.Ne2 Be6 9.0-0 Qd6 10.Ng3 Qc6 11.Qe2 0-0 12.f4 exf4 13.Bxf4 dxe4 14.dxe4 Rfe8 15.Nc3 a6 16.Kh1 Nd7 17.Qf3 Bd6 18.Nf5 Bxf4 Casper,T (2435)-Jussupow,A (2641) Bundesliga 9899 1998 (13.2) 0-1]
[4.Nf3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 Chigaev,M (2632)-Madaminov,M (2436) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Feb Early blitz 2023 (8) 1-0]
4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nbc3N
[6.0-0 Be6 7.d4 Qh4 8.Bb5 Nde7 9.Nd2 exd4 10.Nf3 Qh5 11.Bxc6+ Nxc6 12.Nf4 Qf5 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.Qxd4 Bd6 15.Nxe6 fxe6 7. Bishop's Opening 2. Bc4-3. d3 4. Ne2]
6...Be6 7.Bb3 Qd7 8.0-0 The position is equal. **8...0-0-0 9.Be3** -0.69/21
[9.Nxd5= -0.26/17 Bxd5 10.Be3]
9...f5 10.Nxd5 Bxd5 11.f4 g6 -0.17/18
[11...exf4∓ -0.86/18 12.Nxf4 Bxb3 13.axb3 Bd6 *(13...g5 14.Nh5∓)*]
12.Ba4 -0.95/19
[12.fxe5= -0.17/18 Nxe5 13.d4]
12...Bg7 -0.15/19
[12...g5∓ -0.95/19 13.c4 Be6 *(13...gxf4 14.cxd5 Qxd5 15.Nc3±; 13...Bxg2 14.Kxg2 gxf4 15.Bc1∓)* 14.fxe5 f4]
13.fxe5 Bxe5 14.Bg5 -0.81/20 Prevents Qd7-e7
[14.c4∓ -0.38/19 deserves consideration. Bf7 15.d4]
14...Rde8 0.43/20
[Better is 14...Qd6∓ -0.81/20 15.c3 Bxh2+ 16.Kh1 Be5]
15.c4± Bf7



16.d4! Bxd4+ 1.60/26
[16...Bxc4± 0.41/21 17.dxe5 Bxe2 18.Qxd7+ *(18.Bxc6 Qxd1 19.Rfxd1 bxc6=)* 18...Kxd7]
[16...h6 17.Bh4]
17.Nxd4± Qxd4+ 18.Qxd4 Nxd4 19.Bxe8 Rxe8

(Diagram)

20.b3 0.94/22
[⌓20.Rfe1! 1.54/24 Re1xe8+ is the strong threat. Re6 *(20...Ne2+? 21.Kf2+-)* 21.Rxe6 Nxe6 22.Be7]
20...Re2 1.70/22
[20...Ne2+± 0.94/22 21.Kf2 Nc3]
21.Rf2 Re4 22.Rd2 b6 23.Bf6 Ne6 24.Rad1 White is more active. **24...Be8**



25.Kf1 Bc6 26.Re1 a5 27.Rxe4 Bxe4 Endgame. KRB-KBN **28.Kf2 g5 29.h4 h6** 1.68/22
[29...g4± 1.26/24 might work better. 30.g3 Bc6]
30.g3+- f4 2.21/23
[30...Bb7± 1.43/19 31.Re2 Be4]
31.gxf4 Nxf4 32.hxg5 hxg5 33.Ke3 Bc6 34.Bxg5 Ne6 Repels Rd2-d8+ **35.Bf6 a4 36.b4 b5 37.Kd3 Kb7 38.Rf2 bxc4+ 39.Kxc4 Kb6 40.Rf5 Kb7 41.Be5 Be4 42.Rf6 Nd8 43.b5 Bb1 44.a3 Ba2+** 4.95/23
[⌓44...c6 3.48/27 45.bxc6+ Nxc6]
45.Kb4 Bb3 46.Rg6 Nf7? 4.95/26
[46...c6 2.76/25 47.Rg7+ *(47.Rd6 Nf7+-)* 47...Nf7]
47.Bf4 Hoping for Rg6-c6. **47...Bc2** 17.32/27
[⌓47...Nd8 4.40/25 48.Ka5 Bc4 49.Kxa4 c6 50.Rg7+ Nf7]
48.Rg7 6.76/23
[⌓48.Rc6 17.32/27 Bd3 49.Rxc7+ Kb6 50.Rxf7 Bxb5 51.Rf6+ *(51.Be3+ Kc6 52.Rf6+* Deflection *Kd5 53.Kxb5 Ke4 54.Bf4 Kd4 55.Kxa4 Ke4)* 51...Bc6 52.Be5 Kb7 53.Rf7+ Kc8 54.Rc7+ Kd8 55.Rxc6]
48...Bb3 49.Bg3? 1.90/24
[49.Rg8 6.98/26 Bd1 50.Re8]
49...Kc8? 6.36/29
[49...c6 1.90/24 50.Bd6 cxb5 51.Kxb5 Kc8]
50.Rg6 Kd7 7.97/25
[⌓50...Nd8 5.07/24 51.Rh6 Ne6 52.Rh8+ Kd7]
51.Rc6 Nd6 52.Bxd6 cxd6 KR-KB
53.Ra6 Threatens to win with Ra6xa4.
53...Kc7 54.Rxa4 Bxa4 55.Kxa4 White mates. **55...Kb6 56.Kb4 d5 57.a4 d4 58.a5+ Kb7 59.Kc4** Weighted Error Value: White=0.45/ Black=0.53
1-0

C28
□ **Dubov,Daniil** **2707**
■ **Oparin,Grigoriy** **2676**
Chess.com Classic Play In rapid (8)
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d3 Na5 5.a3N
[5.Qe2 Nxc4 6.dxc4 Bb4 7.Bd2 d6 8.Na4 Bxd2+ 9.Kxd2 Be6 10.Nc3 c6 11.Rd1 Qb6 12.Kc1 Qb4 13.a3 Qc5 14.b4 Qxc4 15.Qxc4 Bxc4 16.Rxd6 Bf1 17.h3 Bxg2 18.Rh2 Nxe4 19.Rd3 Nxc3 Krajkowski,H-Skorpik,V EU/M/GT/084 corr ICCF 1973 0-1]
[5.Nge2
A) 5...Be7 6.0-0 *(6.a3 Nxc4 7.dxc4 d6 8.Qd3 c6 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Ng3 Ne8 11.Be3 g6 12.0-0 Bg5 13.Rad1 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 Qa5 15.a4 Be6 16.b3 Qc5 17.Qxc5 dxc5 18.a5 Nf6 19.Na4 Nd7 20.Rd6 b5* Meier,E (2430)-

Pakkanen,J USSR 25/552 1978 1-0) 6...0-0 7.a4 Nxc4 8.dxc4 d6 9.Ng3 c6 10.Qd3 Be6 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.Nf1 Rad8 13.Ne3 g6 14.b3 Nh5 15.Qe2 Nf4 16.Qf3 f5 17.exf5 gxf5 18.Nf1 Ng6 19.Bh6 Rf7 20.Rd2 Lurje,P (2194)-7.00 ♘a6 8.♖e1 c6 (2361) Maia op 2023 (9) ½-½;

B) 5...Bc5 6.0-0 0-0 7.Ng3 h6 8.h3 d6 9.Bb3 c6 10.Na4 Nxb3 11.axb3 Bb4 12.Bd2 Bxd2 13.Qxd2 d5 14.Qb4 b6 15.Nc3 c5 16.Qa3 d4 17.Nce2 a5 18.f4 Be6 19.Rae1 exf4 Naiditsch,A (2702)-Caruana,F (2817) Grenke Chess Classic 4th 2017 (2) 0-1]

[5.Bb3 Nxb3 6.axb3 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Nge2 Bc5 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.Nc3 Qd8 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.fxe3 Qg5 14.Qf3 c6 15.d4 Be6 16.Rad1 Qg6 17.Qe4 Qxe4 18.Nxe4 Bg4 19.Rd2 Rad8 Acar,K (1612)-Kurtyilmaz,K (1780) TUR-chT 1st League 2023 (4.76) 0-1]

5...Nxc4 6.dxc4 Bc5 7.Nf3 d6 8.Qe2 The position is equal. **8...h6 9.Be3 Bxe3 10.Qxe3 b6 11.0-0-0** And now Nf3xe5 would win. **11...Be6?** 2.06/17

[11...Qe7± 0.38/19]

12.Nxe5+- Pin **12...Qc8 13.Nf3**

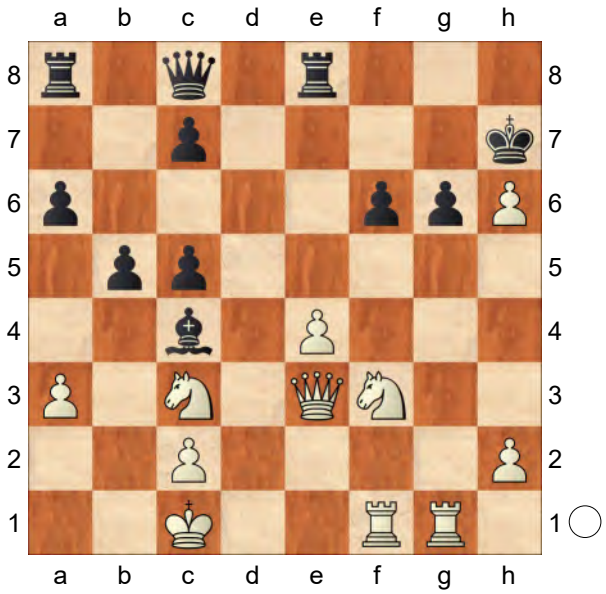
[Resist 13.Nc6?! Qd7]

13...0-0 14.b3 Re8 15.Nd4 a6 16.f3 Nd7 17.g4 Nc5 18.Rhg1 Kh7 19.f4 b5 20.f5

[20.cxb5 axb5 21.Ndxb5 Bd7±]

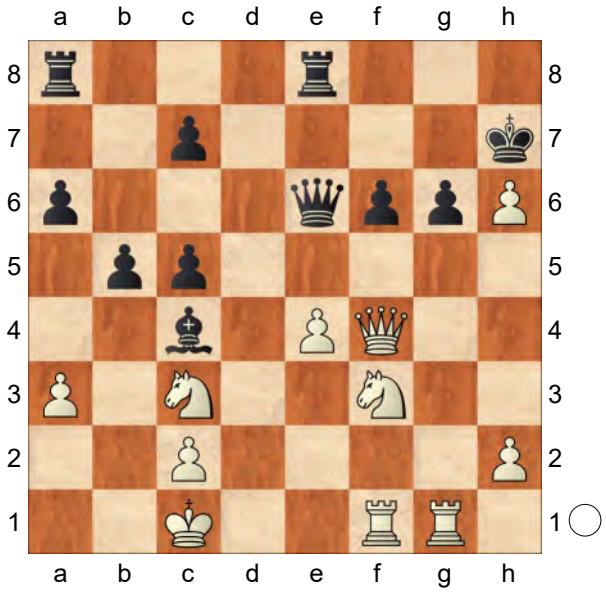
20...Bd7 21.g5 Bxf5 22.gxh6 g6 23.Rdf1 Be6 24.b4 Bxc4 25.bxc5 dxc5 26.Nf3 f6

(Diagram)



Prevents Nf3-g5+. **27.Qf4! Qe6**

[27...Qd7 28.Qxf6]



28.Rxg6!! Decoy **28...Kxg6**

[28...Rg8 29.Rxf6]

29.Rg1+ White mates. **29...Kh7 30.Rg7+ Kh8 31.Nh4** Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening. Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.63

[Worse is 31.Rxc7 Re7±]

1-0

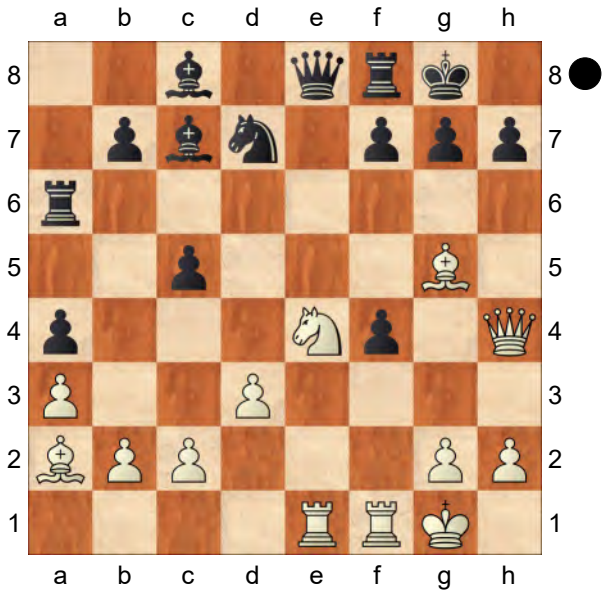
C24

□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** 2788
■ **Le,Quang Liem** 2731
Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Feb Late blitz (6)
[Kitty Kat]

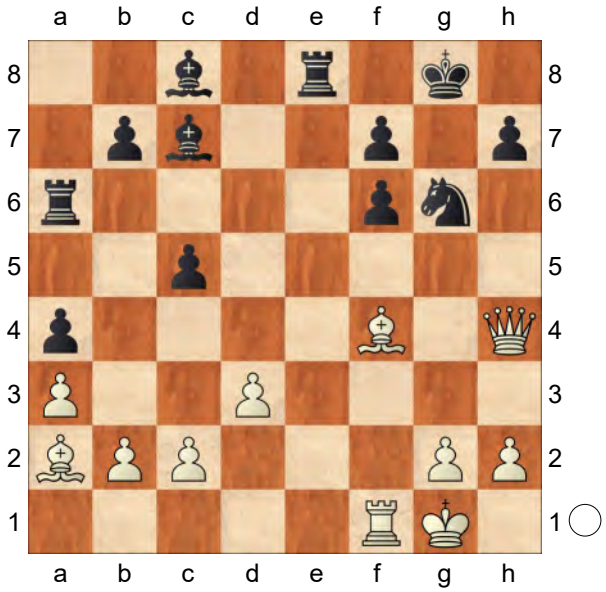
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
A more direct attack is the theme in this game:
Huber,G: 'Gary Lane: 'A more direct attack is the theme in this game:
" 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 a5 6.a3 a4 7.Ba2 Bd6 8.Nc3 The position is equal. **8...dxe4** 0.20/20
[8...d4 -0.26/17 is superior. 9.Ne2 c5]
9.Ng5= 0-0 10.Ngxe4 Nxe4 11.Nxe4 Bc7N
[11...Be7 12.Qh5 Nd7 13.0-0 Qe8 14.f4 Training Ra5 15.Bd2 Rb5 16.Bc4 Rxb2 17.fxe5 Rxc2 18.Rxf7 Rxc4 19.Rxf8+ Qxf8 20.dxc4 g6 21.Qe2 Nxe5 22.Bc3 Bg4 23.Qe3 Qf5 24.Ng3 Amura,C-Huba Asheville 63/(43) 1995 1-0]
12.Qh5 Qe8 13.Bg5 Nd7 Repels Ne4-f6+ **14.Qh4** White is much more active.
14...Ra6 15.0-0 c5 16.f4 exf4 1.52/22
[⌓16...h6 1.07/20]
17.Rae1±

(Diagram)

Threatens to win with Ne4xc5! **17...Ne5**
18.Bxf4 Ne4-g5! is the strong threat.
[18.Rxf4 c4=]
18...Ng6 19.Nf6+? 0.42/23
[White must play 19.Ng5!+- 1.94/23 Nxh4 20.Rxe8 *(20.Bxc7? Qc6-+)* 20...Rxe8 21.Bxf7+ *(21.Bxc7 Be6=)* 21...Kf8 22.Bxc7]
19...gxf6± 20.Rxe8 Rxe8 12.26/23



[20...Nxh4± 0.36/24 21.Rxf8+ Kxf8 22.Bxc7 Nf5]

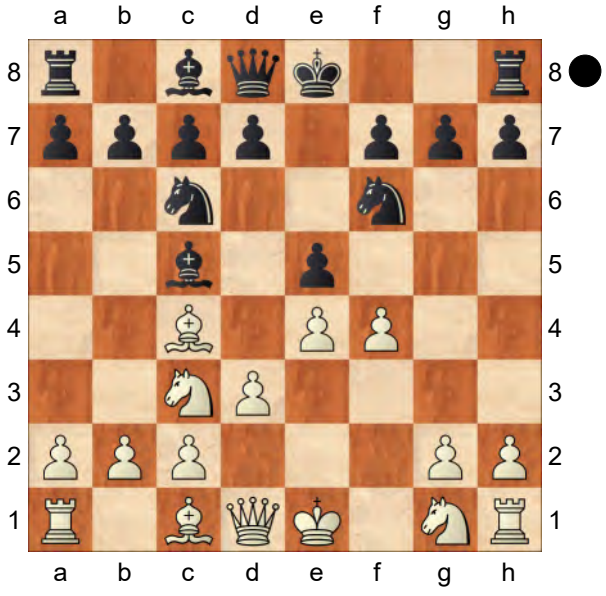


This costs Black the game. **21.Qg3?** 2.89/23
[21.Bxf7+ 12.26/23 Kxf7 22.Qxh7+ Ke6 23.Qxg6 *(23.Qxc7 Ne7+-)*]
21...Bxf4+- 22.Rxf4 Be6 23.Re4
[23.Bc4?! Bxc4 24.Rxc4 Rae6±]
23...f5 24.Re1 f4 25.Qf3
[25.Qf2 Ra5 26.h4 c4 27.Bxc4 Ne5 28.Bxe6 *(28.Qxf4 Bxc4 29.Re3 Ba2+-)* 28...Rxe6+-]

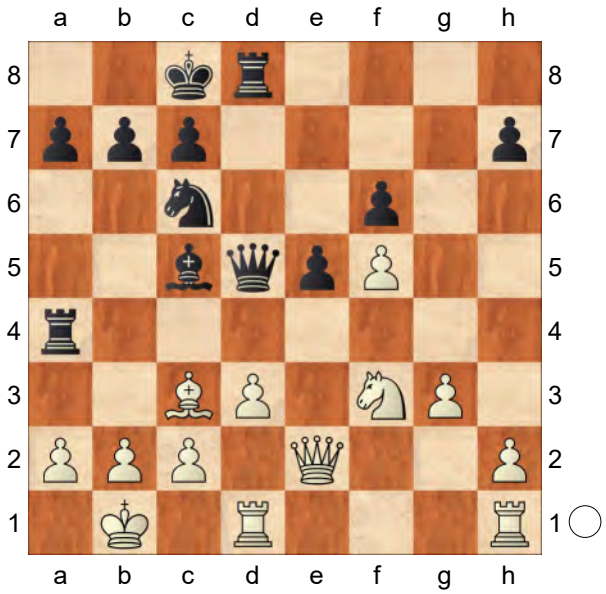
25...b5 5.60/22
[⌓25...Rc6 3.76/22 26.h4 Kg7]
26.Qb7 White is clearly winning.
26...Rd6 27.Qxb5 Kf8 7.78/22
[⌓27...Rdd8 5.03/20 28.Bxe6 *(28.Qxa4 Ra8+-)* 28...fxe6 29.Qxa4 e5 30.Qc4+ Kh8 31.Qxc5 Ra8]
28.Qxc5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/ Black=0.27 (precise)
1-0

C28
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2729**
■ **Pranav,V** **2620**
CrunchLab Masters PlayIn rapid (1)
[Kitty Kat]

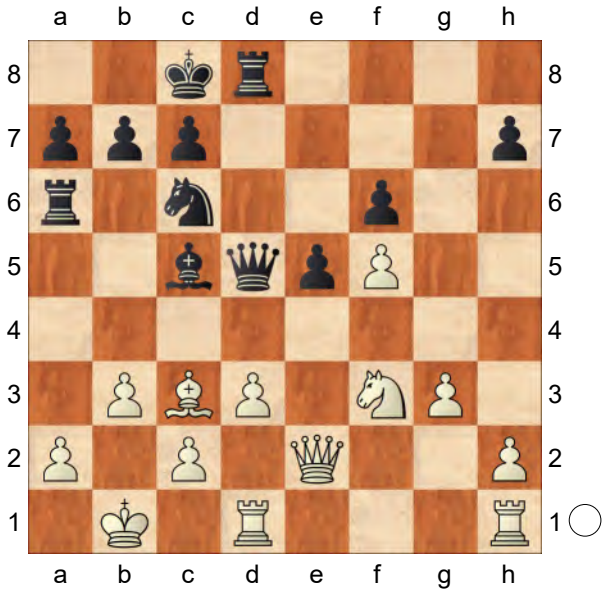
C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.f4



d5 0.46/20 **6.Nxd5± Be6 7.Nxf6+ Qxf6 8.Bxe6** White is slightly better. **8...Qxe6 9.f5 Qd6 10.Nf3! 0-0-0 11.Bd2 g6N 12.Qe2 gxf5 13.exf5 f6** 0.60/20
[13...Qd5= 0.07/24]
14.0-0-0 Qd5 15.Kb1 Rhg8 16.g3 Rg4 17.Bc3 Ra4



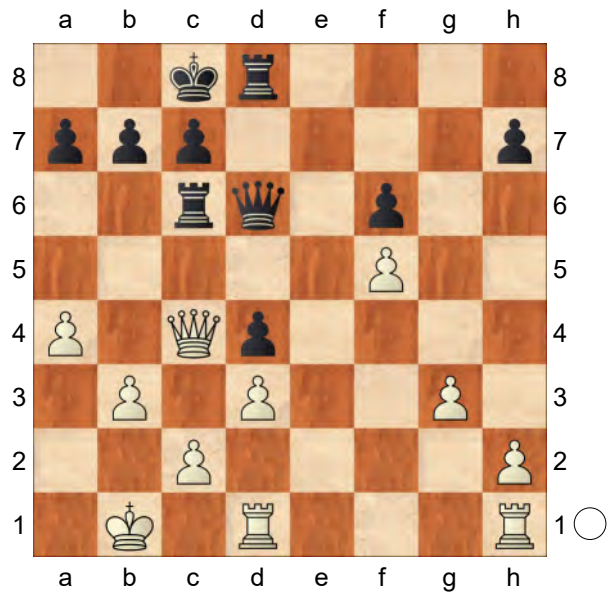
18.b3! Ra6



19.Qe4! Against Bc5-b4 **19...Qd6**
20.Qc4 0.19/25 White is more active.
[Better is 20.a4± 1.05/22]
20...Bd4 21.Bxd4 Nxd4 22.Nxd4 exd4 23.a4 aiming for Rd1-e1. **23...Rc6**

(Diagram)

24.Qe6+ Qxe6 25.fxe6 Rxe6= Endgame. KRR-KRR **26.Rdf1 Rd5 27.Rf4 Kd7 28.Rhf1 Ke7 29.Rh4 h5**



30.Rff4 c5 31.g4 Ree5 32.Re4 hxg4 33.Rexg4 Rg4-g7+ is the strong threat. **33...Ke6 34.Rg7 Rd7 35.Rhh7** -0.34/26
[35.Rg8= 0.08/19 should be considered.]
35...Rxg7∓ 36.Rxg7 KR-KR **36...f5** -0.29/22
[36...Re1+!∓ -0.66/28 37.Kb2 f5]
37.Kc1!=
[37.Rxb7 f4 38.Rb8 *(38.Rxa7?* is the wrong capture. *f3-+)* 38...f3 39.Re8+ Kf5 40.Rf8+ Kg4-+]
37...f4 38.Rg8! Re1+ 39.Kd2 The position is equal. **39...Rh1 40.Rg2 Kf5** Threatens to win with ...f4-f3.
[40...f3!? 41.Rf2□ Kd6=]
41.Ke2 Rc1 42.Kf3 Rf1+ 43.Rf2 Re1 44.Re2 Rf1+ 45.Kg2 Rc1 46.h3 a5 47.Kf3 Rf1+ 48.Rf2 Re1
[48...Rh1!? 49.Kg2□ Re1=]
49.Re2 Rh1 50.Kg2 f3+ Decoy **51.Kxf3!** And now Kf3-g2 would win. **51...Rxh3+ 52.Kg2 Rh6 53.Re7 b6 54.Re4 Rg6+ 55.Kf2 Rh6 56.Kg3** Wards off Rh6-h2 **56...Rg6+ 57.Kf3 Rh6 58.Re2 Rh1 59.Kg2 Rh6 60.Kg3 Rg6+ 61.Kf3 Rh6 62.Rf2 Ke5 63.Ke2** Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

C24

□ **Wei,Yi** **2740**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2769**
86th Tata Steel Masters 2024 (9.6)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
Ragger,Markus: 'HOW TO AVOID THE PETROFF IN STYLE by GM Markus Ragger Once again, the Petroff is becoming increasingly popular. Most of the Chinese top Grandmasters keep on playing it, almost exclusively. Also, it is the main defensive weapon of the World Championship candidate Fabiano Caruana. I was preparing to play against it in a friendly match versus Dieter Liviu Nisipeanu, the elite Grandmaster from Germany. Our match took place in Graz in February 2018. Since GM Nisipeanu is a very classical player, it is no surprise that his two main openings with the black pieces are the Caro-Kann and Petroff. Quite a common misconception is that those solid openings are not interesting and lead to boring games. On the contrary, everything depends on the players' attitude and their will to fight till the bitter end. We saw so many interesting encounters even in the Petroff with 5. Qe2 (Carlsen-Caruana 2018, Kramnik-Caruana 2018). As a result, I decided to avoid the Petroff discussion altogether by choosing the 2.Bc4 move order which aims to steer the game into "Italian waters". On the other hand, most Petroff aficionados try to avoid the Italian with 2...Nf6 3.d3 c6, which is

absolutely the critical test for 2.Bc4. Nisipeanu did exactly the same against me. The funny looking 5...Bb4+ with the idea of denying White to develop his Knight to c3 appeared on the board, and he had a very unpleasant novelty 10... Be6 in petto. That move was seen only twice before in correspondence chess games. Objectively, Black is doing fine and obtains an equal position. I couldn't solve the practical problems over the board and got a worse position. Eventually, after a long fight the game ended in a draw. That same scenario embellished the whole match. Although the games were hard-fought, with decent winning chances for both players, all six of them ended in draw (3 : 3). However, it was reason enough for me to examine the line in question a lot deeper. So, in this article I would like to share my findings with you. I believe that White should recapture on d2 with the knight on move 7, and after the logical sequence 7...a5 8.a4 Nbd7 9.0-0 0-0 10. Re1 Re8 White can play d4 with, or without the inclusion of h3 h6. The resulting isolated queen pawn positions (IQP in the article) are crucial for the evaluation of the whole line. I expect many games to be played in this line as it offers quite a rich play, and I wouldn't be surprised if we witness it in the World Championship match Carlsen - Caruana!' **1.e4** 5 **e5** 7 **2.Bc4** 9 **Nf6** 6 **3.d3** 5 **c6** 11 **4.Nf3** 6 **d5** 14 **5.Bb3** 7 **Bb4+** 25 **6.Bd2** 17 **Bxd2+** 26 **7.Nbxd2** 13 aiming for e4xd5. **7...a5** 1:11 **8.a4** 23 e4xd5 would now be deadly.

[8.Nxe5? a4 9.Bxa4 Rxa4-+]

8...Nbd7 5:35 **9.0-0** 13 Black should prevent e4xd5. **9...0-0** 1:04 The position is equal. **10.Re1** 23 With the idea e4xd5. **10...Re8** 1:00 **11.exd5N** 18

[11.d4 exd4 12.exd5 Rxe1+ 13.Qxe1 cxd5 14.Nxd4 Nc5 15.Qe5 Be6 16.Nf1 Qb6 17.Ne3 Re8 18.Qf4 Nh5 19.Qh4 Nf6 20.Rd1 h6 g6-d5play-8...stuff-4.Bd3 79th ch-BUL 2015]

11...cxd5 1:18 **12.Nb1** 11 **b6** 4:04 **13.Nc3** 33 **Bb7** 9 **14.Nb5** 14 **Qb8** 1:31 Inhibits Nb5-d6. **15.d4** 3:21 **e4** 46 **16.Nd2** 7 **Bc6** 6:07 **17.c4** 12:32 **Bxb5** 1:53 **18.axb5** 3:31 **Qf4** 1:10 White must now prevent ...Nf6-g4. **19.g3** 4:39 **Qf5** 3:39 **20.cxd5** 2:56 **Rad8** 17:45 **21.f3** 33:37 **exf3** 17:25 **22.Qxf3** 9 **Qg5** 0.77/19 15

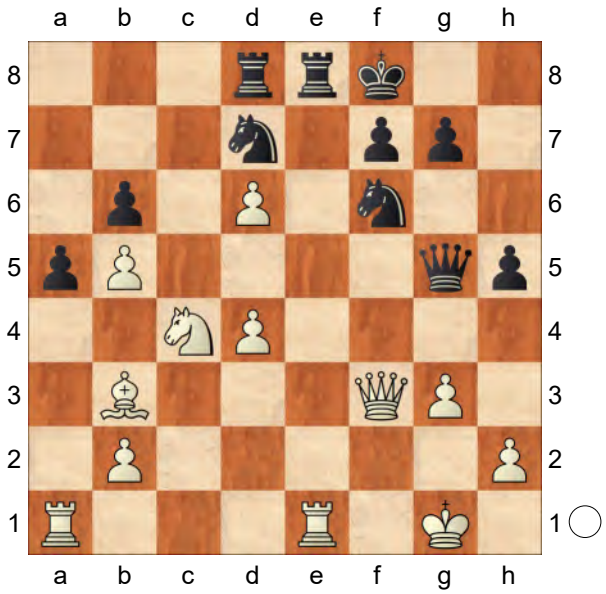
[22...Qxf3± 0.31/24 23.Nxf3 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Ne8]

23.Nc4!± 6:56 Black is now going downhill. **23...h5** 1.53/19 7:11

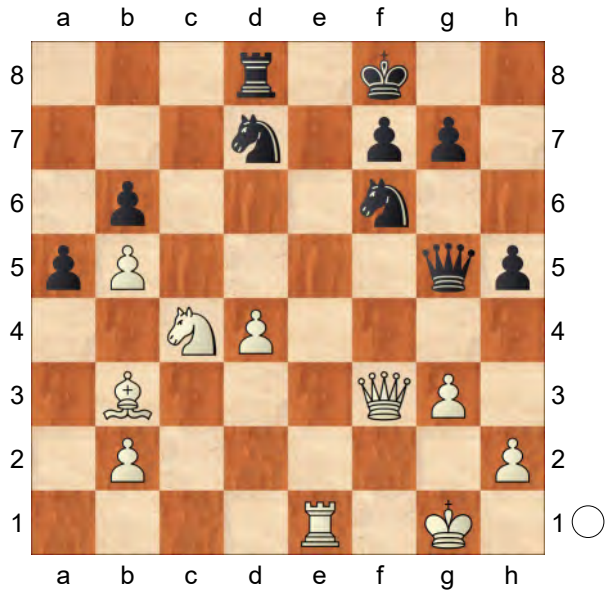
[Black should try 23...Kf8± 0.70/21]

24.d6! 5:53 **Kf8** 2.90/19 8:20

[24...Rxe1+± 1.50/19 25.Rxe1 Qxb5]



Against Re1-e7 **25.Re7!+-** 7:38 Decoy **25...Rxe7** 3:19 **26.dxe7+** 4 **Kxe7** 2 **27.Re1+** 1:38 **Kf8** 4



28.Nd6 40 White is much more active.
28...Qd2 3:13 **29.Qc3** 4:01 **Qxc3** 4:39
30.bxc3 4 **g6** 2.13/23 4:16
[30...a4± 1.60/22 31.Ba2 *(31.Bxa4 Nb8±; 31.Nxf7 Re8=)* 31...Ng4]
31.h3 1:08
[31.Nxf7?! Re8 32.Rxe8+ Nxe8±]
31...a4 1:27 **32.Ba2** 2:13
[32.Bxf7?! Nb8±]
[32.Nxf7 Rc8 33.Nd6 Rxc3 34.Bxa4 Rxg3+ 35.Kh2 Rd3∓]
32...a3 2.04/23 6
[⌓32...Ng8 1.61/23 33.g4 *(33.Bxf7 Ndf6=; 33.Nxf7 Re8+-)* 33...hxg4]
33.Kg2 4:10
[33.Nxf7 Re8 34.Ne5 Kg7=]
[33.Bxf7? Nb8 34.Ra1 *(34.Nb7? Rd7-+)* 34...Rxd6∓]
33...Ra8 2.65/21 2:35
[33...g5 1.99/23 keeps fighting. 34.Nxf7 *(34.Bxf7? Nb8-+)* 34...Re8 35.Rxe8+ Nxe8]
34.Kf3 3:27
[34.Bxf7 a2 35.Ra1 *(35.Bxg6? a1Q-+)* 35...Ke7 36.Rxa2 Rxa2+ 37.Bxa2 Kxd6=]
[34.Nxf7 Re8 35.Ne5 Nxe5 36.dxe5 *(36.Rxe5 Ne4∓)* 36...Rd8±]
34...Ra5 3:37 **35.Kf4** 4:41
[35.Bxf7 a2 36.Ra1 *(36.Bxg6? a1Q-+)* 36...Ra3 *(36...Ke7 37.Nc4=)* 37.Bxa2 Rxc3+ 38.Kg2 Ke7=]
35...Ra8 2:24 **36.Kg5** 3:43
[36.Bxf7 a2 37.Bxa2 *(37.Bxg6? a1Q-+; 37.Ra1 Ke7∓)* 37...Rxa2∓]
[36.Nxf7 Re8 37.Ne5 Nxe5 38.Rxe5 *(38.dxe5 Nd7+-)* 38...g5+ 39.Kf5 *(39.Kxg5 Ne4+ 40.Kf4 Nxc3∓; 39.Rxg5 Re2±)* 39...Rxe5+ 40.dxe5 *(40.Kxe5 Ke7+-)* 40...Nd7+-]
36...Rd8 3:28 **37.Bxf7** 4:47 **Nb8** 4.41/20 25
[37...Kg7 3.00/21 was necessary.]
38.Kxf6 9 **Rxd6+** 3 **39.Be6** 20 **Nd7+** 24
40.Kxg6 51 **Ne5+** 8 **41.Kf6** 52:24
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.41
[41.Rxe5 a2 42.Rf5+ *(42.Kxh5? too greedy. a1Q-+)* 42...Ke8±]
1-0

C24
□ **Wei,Yi** **2740**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2769**
Tata Steel-A 86th (9) 23.01.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
HOW TO AVOID THE PETROFF IN STYLE by GM Markus Ragger Once again, the Petroff is becoming increasingly popular. Most of the Chinese top Grandmasters keep on playing it, almost exclusively. Also, it is the main defensive weapon of the World Championship candidate Fabiano Caruana. I was preparing to play against it in a friendly match versus Dieter Liviu Nisipeanu, the elite Grandmaster from Germany. Our match

took place in Graz in February 2018. Since GM Nisipeanu is a very classical player, it is no surprise that his two main openings with the black pieces are the Caro-Kann and Petroff. Quite a common misconception is that those solid openings are not interesting and lead to boring games. On the contrary, everything depends on the players' attitude and their will to fight till the bitter end. We saw so many interesting encounters even in the Petroff with 5. Qe2 (Carlsen-Caruana 2018, Kramnik-Caruana 2018). As a result, I decided to avoid the Petroff discussion altogether by choosing the 2.Bc4 move order which aims to steer the game into "Italian waters". On the other hand, most Petroff aficionados try to avoid the Italian with 2...Nf6 3.d3 c6, which is absolutely the critical test for 2.Bc4. Nisipeanu did exactly the same against me. The funny looking 5...Bb4+ with the idea of denying White to develop his Knight to c3 appeared on the board, and he had a very unpleasant novelty 10... Be6 in petto. That move was seen only twice before in correspondence chess games. Objectively, Black is doing fine and obtains an equal position. I couldn't solve the practical problems over the board and got a worse position. Eventually, after a long fight the game ended in a draw. That same scenario embellished the whole match. Although the games were hard-fought, with decent winning chances for both players, all six of them ended in draw (3 : 3). However, it was reason enough for me to examine the line in question a lot deeper. So, in this article I would like to share my findings with you. I believe that White should recapture on d2 with the knight on move 7, and after the logical sequence 7...a5 8.a4 Nbd7 9.0-0 0-0 10. Re1 Re8 White can play d4 with, or without the inclusion of h3 h6. The resulting isolated queen pawn positions (IQP in the article) are crucial for the evaluation of the whole line. I expect many games to be played in this line as it offers quite a rich play, and I wouldn't be surprised if we witness it in the World Championship match Carlsen - Caruana! **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Nbxd2** Hoping for e4xd5. **7...a5** Threatens to win with ...a5-a4. **8.a4**

[8.Nxe5? a4 9.Bxa4 Rxa4-+]

8...Nbd7 9.0-0 With the idea e4xd5. **9...0-0** The position is equal. **10.Re1** Threatening e4xd5. **10...Re8 11.exd5N**

[11.d4 exd4 12.exd5 Rxe1+ 13.Qxe1 cxd5 14.Nxd4 Nc5 15.Qe5 Be6 16.Nf1 Qb6 17.Ne3 Re8 18.Qf4 Nh5 19.Qh4 Nf6 20.Rd1 h6 g6-d5play-8...stuff-4.Bd3 79th ch-BUL 2015]

11...cxd5 12.Nb1 b6 13.Nc3 Bb7 14.Nb5 Qb8 Dodges Nb5-d6 **15.d4 e4 16.Nd2 Bc6 17.c4 Bxb5 18.axb5 Qf4** aiming for ...Nf6-g4. **19.g3 Qf5 20.cxd5 Rad8** 0.66/24

[20...h5= 0.25/24]

21.f3 exf3 22.Qxf3 Qg5 0.92/21

[Black should try 22...Qxf3± 0.34/25 23.Nxf3 Kf8]

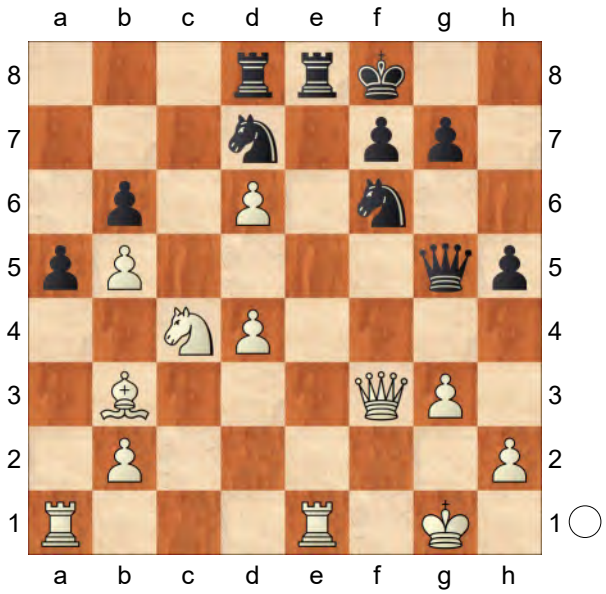
23.Nc4!± White stays focused until the end. **23...h5** 1.79/21

[23...Kf8± 0.98/23]

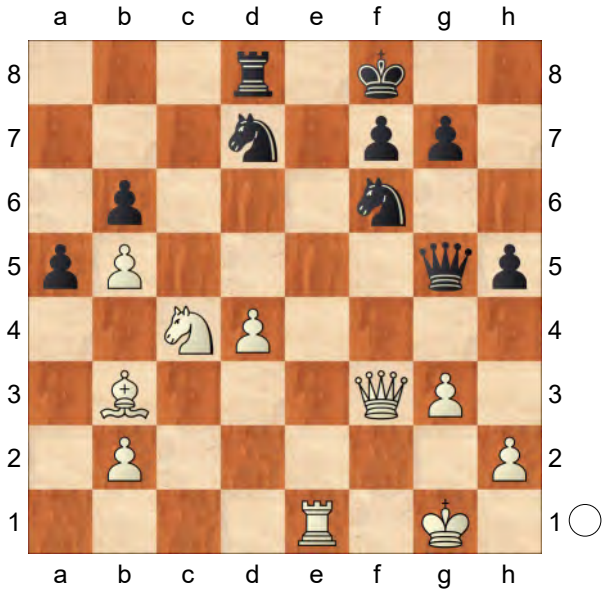
24.d6!+- Re1-e7 is the strong threat. **24...Kf8?** 3.20/21

[24...Rxe1+ 1.68/23 is a better defense. 25.Rxe1 Qxb5]

(Diagram)



25.Re7! Decoy **25...Rxe7 26.dxe7+ Kxe7 27.Re1+ Kf8**

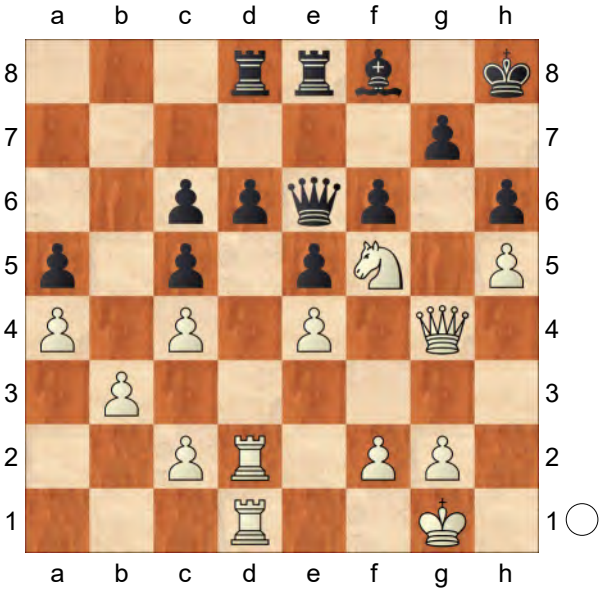


28.Nd6 Qd2 29.Qc3 Qxc3 30.bxc3 g6 2.24/27
[30...a4 1.76/25 keeps fighting. 31.Bxa4 *(31.Bxf7 Nb8∓; 31.Nxf7 Re8=)* 31...Nb8]
31.h3
[31.Nxf7?! Re8 32.Rxe8+ Nxe8±]
[31.Bxf7 Nb8]
31...a4 32.Ba2
[32.Bxa4 Nb8 33.Nc4 Nd5]
[32.Nxf7 Rc8 33.Nd6 Rxc3 34.Bxa4 Rxg3+ 35.Kh2 Rd3∓]
32...a3 2.43/25
[⌓32...Ng8 1.89/22 33.Nxf7 *(33.Bxf7 Ndf6=)* 33...Re8]
33.Kg2
[33.Nxf7 Re8 34.Ne5 g5±]
[33.Bxf7 Nb8 34.Bxg6 *(34.Nb7? Rd7-+)* 34...Rxd6∓]
33...Ra8 34.Kf3
[34.Bxf7 a2 35.Ra1 *(35.Bxg6? a1Q-+)* 35...Ke7 36.Rxa2 Rxa2+ 37.Bxa2 Kxd6∓]
[34.Nxf7 Re8 35.Rxe8+ Nxe8±]
34...Ra5 3.62/23
[34...g5 2.27/21 was called for. 35.g4 *(35.Bxf7 a2∓; 35.Nxf7 g4+ 36.hxg4 Rc8±)* 35...hxg4+ 36.hxg4 Rd8]
35.Kf4
[35.Bxf7 a2 36.Ra1 *(36.Bxg6? a1Q-+)* 36...Ra3 *(36...Ke7 37.Nc4∓)* 37.Bxa2 Rxc3+ 38.Kg2 Rd3=]
35...Ra8 36.Kg5
[36.Bxf7 a2 37.Bxa2 *(37.Bxg6?* perishes. *a1Q-+; 37.Ra1 Ke7∓)* 37...Rxa2=]
[36.Nxf7?! Re8 37.Ra1 Rc8+-]
36...Rd8 37.Bxf7 Nb8 4.76/22
[⌓37...Kg7 3.14/22]
38.Kxf6 Nd6-b7 would now be deadly. White is clearly winning. **38...Rxd6+ 39.Be6 Nd7+ 40.Kxg6 Ne5+** 6.29/24
[⌓40...Ke7 4.37/18 41.Kf5 Nf6]
41.Kf6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.42
[Weaker is 41.Rxe5 a2 42.Rf5+ *(42.Kxh5?* too greedy. *a1Q-+)* 42...Ke8±]
1-0

C28

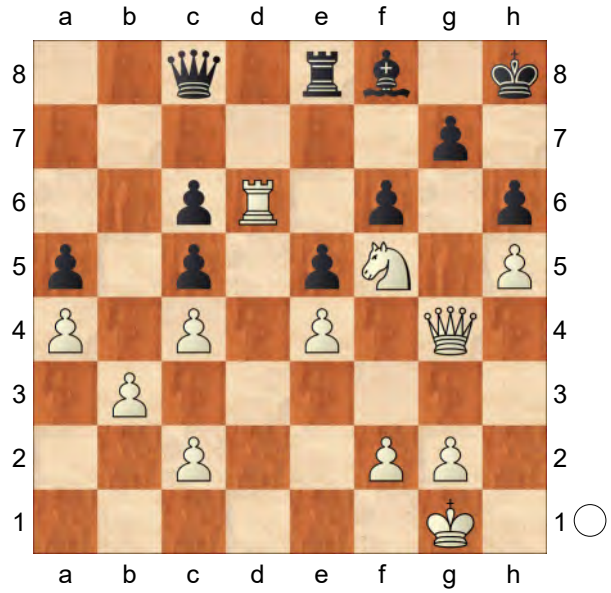
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2729**
■ **Kamsky,Gata** **2615**
CrunchLab Masters PlayIn rapid (8)
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Na5 5.Qf3 Nxc4 6.dxc4 d6 7.Nge2! 7.Nge2 is better than 7.h3.7.Sge2 ist besser als 7.h3. **7...Be7 8.0-0** The position is equal. **8...0-0 9.h3 Be6 10.b3 c6**
[10...Ne8 11.Ng3 g6 12.Bh6 Ng7 13.Rad1 Bg5 14.Bxg5 Qxg5 15.Nb5 Qe7 16.Qe3 f5 17.exf5 Nxf5 18.Nxf5 Rxf5 19.Nc3 Raf8 20.Qxa7 b6 21.Qb7 Qf7 22.Ne4 Rf4 23.Ng5 Bc8 24.Qxc8 Rxc8 25.Nxf7 Hernandez Molina,D (2522)-Die Nordische Vert (2247) Antalya 90/(24) 2004 (8) ½-½]
11.Rd1 Qc7 12.a4 a5N
[12...Ne8 13.g4 Kh8 14.Ng3 g6 15.Rd3 Ng7 16.Bh6 Rg8 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.Nce2 b6 19.R3d2 Ne8 20.Qc3 g5 21.f4 f6 22.f5 Bf7 23.Qf3 Qb8 24.Nf1 a6 25.Nc3 b5 26.axb5 axb5 27.cxb5 Haeusler,K (1917)-Wiesinger,J (2052) corr AUT/OÖ/C2 (AUT) 2012 1-0 cxb5 28.Ne3 Nc7 29.h4 gxh4 30.Qh3 Qb6 31.Qxh4 Rxg4+ 32.Qxg4 Rg8 33.Qxg8+ Bxg8 34.Kf2 Bf7 35.b4 d5 36.exd5 Ne8 37.Ne4 Bxb4 38.d6 Qc6 39.d7 Qxe4 40.dxe8Q+ Bxe8 41.Rd8 Qh4+ 42.Kg2 Mlacnik,F (1917)-Grommer (2052) EU/FSM/41 corr ICCF 1989 1-0]
[12...Rad8 13.Ng3 Kh8 14.Nf5 Bxf5 15.Qxf5 g6 16.Qf3 Ng8 17.Qe3 a6 18.Bb2 Qc8 19.Ne2 Qe6 20.Nf4 Qc8 21.Nd3 f6 22.f4 Rfe8 23.Rf1 Bf8 24.Qg3 Bg7 25.fxe5 dxe5 26.Rf3 c5 27.a5 Model Games-So, W]
13.Ng3 Rfe8N
[Vorgänger: 13...Rfd8 0.68/21 13...Ra8-d8 0.17 14.Ba3 Nd7 15.Nf5 Nc5 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.Rd2 b6 18.Rad1 f6 19.Ne2 Nb7 0.98/21 Daggupati,B (2377)-Vardan,N (2366) Belgrade Radnicki GM1 2021 (6) 1-0 *(19...Rd7!± 0.55/22 is superior.)*]
14.Be3 Nd7 15.Rd2 Bf8 16.Rad1 Nc5 White now steadily converts the win. **17.h4 f6 18.h5 h6** 1.44/19
[⌓18...Kf7 0.88/22]
19.Nf5± Rad8 20.Ne2 White is more active. **20...b6 21.Neg3 Kh7 22.Nh4 Qf7** 2.01/30
[22...Bc8± 1.47/25 23.Ng6 Ne6]
23.Ngf5 Bxf5 24.Qxf5+
[Don't play 24.exf5?! Qc7 25.Ng6 Na6±]
24...Kg8 25.Qg4 Qe6 4.54/29
[25...Qd7 2.28/25 keeps fighting. 26.Nf5 Kh8]
26.Nf5+- White is clearly winning.
26...Kh8 27.Bxc5 bxc5

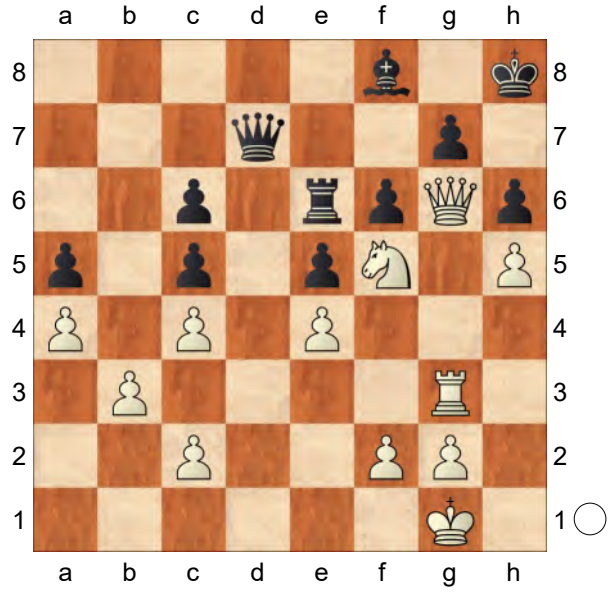


Black is weak on the light squares

28.Rxd6 Rxd6
[28...Qxf5 29.Qxf5]
29.Rxd6 Qc8



30.Qg6! Re6
[30...Re7 31.Nxe7]
31.Rd3 Qc7 32.Rg3 Qd7



33.Nxh6! Threatening mate with Nh6-f7+. Back Rank **33...f5 34.Qf7 Qxf7 35.Nxf7+** Endgame. KRB-KRN **35...Kg8 36.exf5 Rf6 37.Nxe5 Rxf5 38.Ng6 Rxh5 39.Rd3** Inhibits Bf8-d6. **39...Rh6 40.Nxf8 Kxf8** KR-KR **41.Rd7 Re6 42.Kf1 Kg8 43.Ra7 Rd6 44.Rxa5 Rd2 45.Rxc5 Rxc2 46.Rxc6**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.29 (precise)
1-0

C27

□	**Nakamura,Hikaru**	**2788**
■	**Sjugirov,Sanan**	**2695**

Titled Tuesday intern op 09th Jan Early blitz (7)
[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4
Myers: This is Game #61 published in a book called "A Selection of 200 Games of Chess, Played by Correspondence, with Notes and Critical Remarks by Geo. B. Fraser, Dundee." GBF includes this short preface: "The Games which follow are selected from various Correspondence Tourneys organized under my Conductorship, between the years 1887 and 1896. With few exceptions, none of them have hitherto appeared in print. A large majority will be found to exhibit a pleasing liveliness and animation somewhat unusual in Chess by correspondence." A fair number of these games (33) were played by GBF himself, so it is evident that he was both an avid correspondence player and an early organizer of correspondence chess events. (GBF was also an active OTB player, mainly in Scotland. For example, GBF finished a respectable second in the 1st Scottish Championship, played in Glasgow in 1884, just a half-point behind the winner.) It is not known whether the games are printed in any particular order, and no dates are provided for the games individually. I have somewhat arbitrarily assigned a date of 1890 to each game,

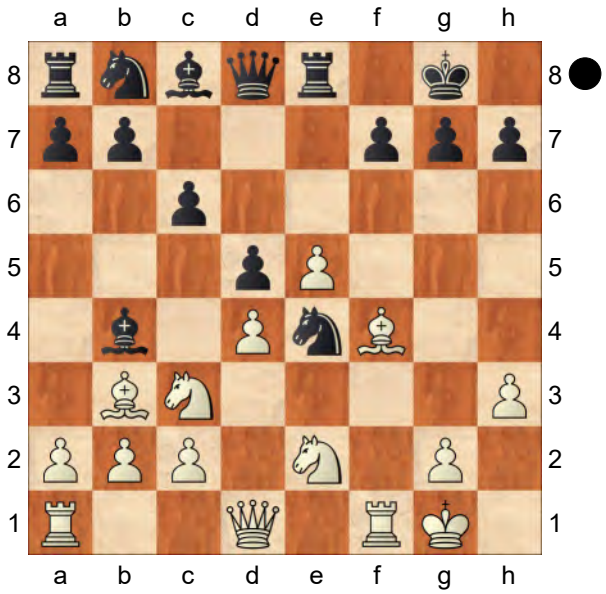
for database purposes. **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 d6 5.h3**
[5.Bg5 Be6 6.Bb3 Nc6 7.Na4 Bb4+ 8.c3 Ba5 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.Ne2 0-0 11.0-0 Qe8 12.b4 Bb6 13.Bd2 Nh5 14.b5 Ne7 15.Nxb6 axb6 16.a4 Nf4 17.Nxf4 exf4 18.f3 e5 19.c4 Ng6 Adams,M (2741)-Pelletier,Y (2604) FRA-chT Top 16 GpA 2005 (5) ½-½]
5...0-0N
[5...Be6 6.Bb3 a6 7.Nf3 h6 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.c3 d5 10.Qc2 dxe4 11.dxe4 Qe7 12.Ng3 0-0-0 13.Bxe6+ Qxe6 14.b4 Ba7 15.a4 Qc4 16.Ra2 Rd3 17.Nd2 Qxc3 18.Qxc3 Rxc3 19.Ne2 Rd3 20.b5 Billups,R-Wheeler,A GBR corr 1890 0-1 Nb4 21.Rb2 Rxd2 22.Rxb4 Rd6 23.0-0 Rhd8 24.g4 axb5 25.axb5 Rd1 26.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 27.Kg2 Bd4 28.f3 Nd7 29.Rc4 Bb2 30.Be3 Rd3 31.Bc5 Nxc5 32.Rxc5 b6 33.Rd5 Rxd5 34.exd5 Kd7 35.Ng3 Bilokha,S (2350)-Malakhatko,V (2496) UKR ol Alushta 1999 0-1 Kd6 36.Nf5+ Kxd5 37.Nxg7 Kc5 38.Ne8 e4 Chapter-Carlsson GER CCM-E/02-H email 2018 0-1]
6.f4 exf4 7.Bxf4 c6 8.Bb3 The position is equal. **8...d5 9.e5 Re8 10.d4 Bb4 11.Nge2 Ne4 12.0-0**

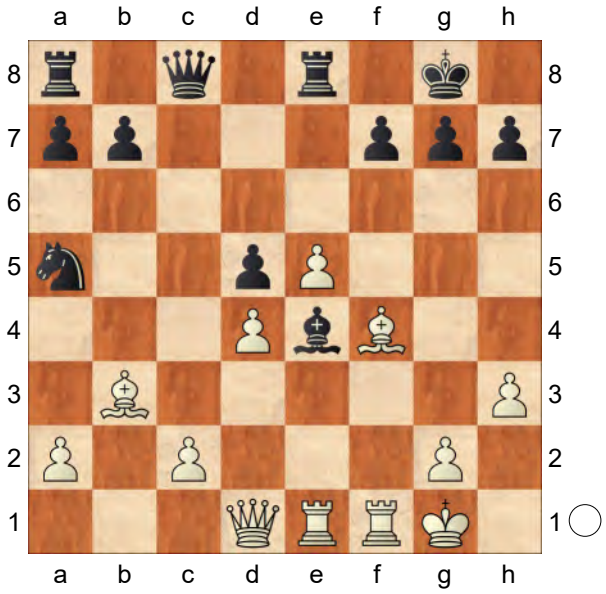
(Diagram)

aiming for Nc3xe4. **12...Bxc3 13.Nxc3 Nxc3 14.bxc3 Bf5 15.c4 Be4 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Qg4** Hoping for Bf4-g5. **17...Nc6 18.Rae1 Qc8! 19.Qd1 Na5**

(Diagram)

20.Rxe4! dxe4 21.Bd5 Rd8 22.Bxe4 This pair of bishops is nice. **22...Qc4 23.Be3↑** White fights for an advantage.



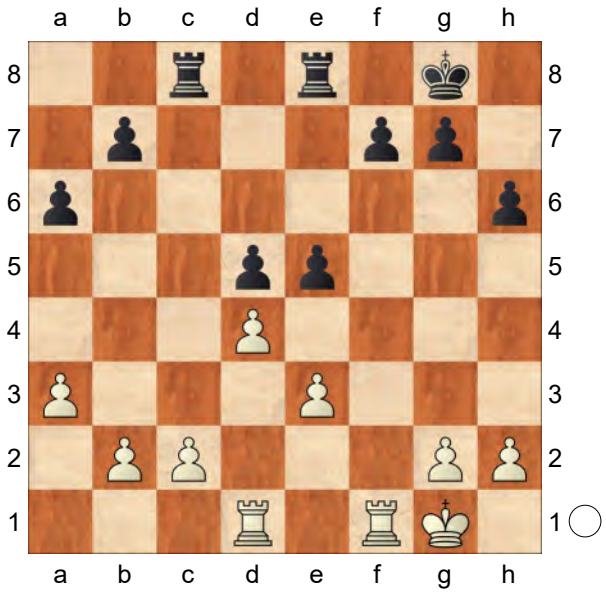


23...Nc6! 24.Bd3!
[Inferior is 24.Qh5 g6 25.Qg5 *(25.Bd3? Qxd3 26.Qf3 Qc4-+)* 25...Nxd4 *(25...Qxa2? 26.d5+-)* 26.Bxb7 Rab8∓]
24...Qxa2 25.Qh5 0.01/20
[25.c3!± 0.46/20]
25...g6!= 26.Qh4 Strongly threatening c2-c4. **26...Qe6** 2.91/21 This move loses the game for Black.
[26...Rd7= -0.01/21]
27.Rf6+- Qe7 28.Bc4 Rf8 29.Bh6 Rae8? 8.61/24

[29...Nxe5 3.89/23 30.dxe5 Qxe5]
30.c3? 2.86/24
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.32
[30.Bxf8 Rxf8 31.Bb5 Nxe5=]
[30.e6 8.61/24 fxe6 31.Rxe6 *(31.Bxf8 Rxf8 32.Rxe6 Qxh4=)* 31...Qxe6 32.Bxe6+ Rxe6 33.Bxf8 Kxf8 34.d5 *(34.Qxh7 Rd6+-)*]
1-0

C50
□ **So,Wesley** **2752**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2771**
Saint Louis Blitz (12) 18.11.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nc3 h6 7.a3 a6 8.Be3 Bxe3 9.fxe3 d6 10.Qe1N
White is slightly better.
[10.d4 Bg4 *(10...b5 11.Ba2 Bg4 12.Qd3 Bxf3 13.Rxf3 Ne7 14.Ne2 Qc8 15.Ng3 Qg4 16.Raf1 Qh4 17.c4 bxc4 18.Qxc4 c6 19.Qb4 Rad8 20.h3 a5 21.Qxa5 d5 22.exd5 exd4 23.dxc6 dxe3 24.Qc5 Ne4 25.Qxe3* Adams,M (2672)-Royal,S (2504) British Championships 2024 (9) ½-½ *)* 11.Qd3 Bh5 12.h3 Nd7 13.Rf2 Bg6 14.g3 Bh7 15.Nh4 Nb6 16.Ba2 Ne7 17.dxe5 d5 18.Nf5 Nc6 19.Nxd5 Nxd5 20.Bxd5 Nxe5 21.Qc3 Re8 22.Raf1 Bg6 23.Nh4 Kh7 24.Nxg6 fxg6 Chernov,V (2658)-Farakhov,R (2280) (Game 4) Amsterdam 1921 (9.10) 1-0 25.Bxb7 Rb8 26.Bd5 c6 27.Bf7 Re7 28.Ba2 a5 29.Bb3 Re8 30.Kg2 Qb6 31.Rd1 a4 32.Bxa4 Qxb2 33.Qxb2 Rxb2 34.Bb3 Ra8 35.Rd6 Rxa3 36.Rd8 h5 37.Bg8+ Kh6 38.Re8 Ra5 39.Bb3 g5 Sindarov,J (2658)-Kulpruethanon,T (2280) Asian Games tt 2023 (9.10) 1-0]
10...Be6 11.Nd2 Na5 12.Ba2 Bxa2 13.Rxa2 Nd7 0.48/26
[13...Nc6= 0.06/21 deserves consideration.]
14.Ra1± Nc6 15.Nf3 Ne7 16.Qg3 Ng6 17.Qh3 c6 18.Ne2 Nf6 19.Nh4 Nxh4 20.Qxh4 d5 21.Ng3 dxe4 0.36/23
[21...Nh7= -0.04/22 22.Qg4 Ng5]
22.Nxe4 -0.02/20
[22.Nf5± 0.36/23 Nd7 23.Ne7+ *(23.Qxe4 g6=)* 23...Kh8 24.dxe4]
22...Nxe4= The position is equal.
23.Qxe4 Qd5 24.Qxd5 cxd5
Endgame. KRR-KRR **25.d4 Rfe8 26.Rad1 Rac8**



aiming for ...e5xd4. **27.c3 exd4 28.Rxd4 Rxe3 29.Rxd5 Rc7**
Wards off Rd5-d7 **30.Rfd1 Rce7 31.Rd7 Re1+ 32.Rxe1 Rxd7** KR-KR **33.Kf2 f5 34.Re5 Rd2+ 35.Re2 Rd7 36.Re5 Rd2+ 37.Re2 Rd7 38.Re5**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08

(flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
½-½

		C27
□	**Rapport,Richard**	**2731**
■	**Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar**	**2723**

Gashimov Memorial Blitz 9th (10)
[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4 Opening expert: Vladimir Kramnik Born: 25 June, 1975 Nationality: Russia Rating: 2772 Expertise: White: Catalan Black: Petroff Why: His style has been marked by many people as boring, although this view seems rather simplistic. Almost all top players seem to be satisfied making a draw with Black under normal circumstances, and in our view Kramnik is simply the one who has worked out his Black repertoire better than the others. Kramnik was one of the very few players who wasn't afraid of Kasparov and the only one who managed to beat him in a match. In recent tournaments the Russian GM, who lives in Paris, has changed his style a bit and is taking more risks, also with Black. In the Tal Memorial he remained unbeaten with +3 and in London a real masterpiece by Carlsen inflicted his only loss. In the past Kramnik faced some difficulties when playing against creative, unorthodox players like Morozevich. In their last encounter in Moscow, Moro's original approach was cold-bloodedly refuted, while in London, Kramnik dealt in a similar way with McShane. Saunders, John C: 'Van Delft/Ris: 'Opening expert: Vladimir Kramnik Born: 25 June, 1975 Nationality: Russia Rating: 2772 Expertise: White: Catalan Black: Petroff Why: His style has been marked by many people as boring, although this view seems rather simplistic. Almost all top players seem to be satisfied making a draw with Black under normal circumstances, and in our view Kramnik is simply the one who has worked out his Black repertoire better than the others. Kramnik was one of the very few players who wasn't afraid of Kasparov and the only one who managed to beat him in a match. In recent tournaments the Russian GM, who lives in Paris, has changed his style a bit and is taking more risks, also with Black. In the Tal Memorial he remained unbeaten with +3 and in London a real masterpiece by Carlsen inflicted his only loss. In the past Kramnik faced some difficulties when playing against creative, unorthodox players like Morozevich. In their last encounter in Moscow, Moro's original approach was cold-bloodedly refuted, while in London, Kramnik dealt in a similar way with McShane.'' Opening expert: Vladimir Kramnik Born: 25 June, 1975 Nationality: Russia Rating: 2772 Expertise: White: Catalan Black: Petroff Why: His style has been marked by many people as boring, although this view seems rather simplistic. Almost all top players seem to be satisfied making a draw with Black under normal circumstances, and in our view Kramnik is simply the one who has worked out his Black repertoire better than the others. Kramnik was one of the very few players who wasn't afraid of Kasparov and the only one who managed to beat him in a match. In recent tournaments the Russian GM, who lives in Paris, has changed his style a bit and is taking more risks, also with

Black. In the Tal Memorial he remained unbeaten with +3 and in London a real masterpiece by Carlsen inflicted his only loss. In the past Kramnik faced some difficulties when playing against creative, unorthodox players like Morozevich. In their last encounter in Moscow, Moro's original approach was cold-bloodedly refuted, while in London, Kramnik dealt in a similar way with McShane. **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.d3 0-0 5.Nf3 d6 6.Na4**

[6.0-0 c6 7.a4 a5 8.Kh1 Na6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Ne2 Qe8 13.c3 Ba7 14.Bxf6 Rxf6 15.Ng3 Rf7 16.Qe2 Qe7 17.Nd2 Raf8 18.f3 d5 19.Rfe1 Qh4 20.Nb3 Bb6 Rapport,R (2752)-Galperin,P (2566) World-chT Rapid 2023 (9) 1-0]

6...Bb6

[6...Bb4+!? 7.c3 d5=]

7.0-0N -0.17/19

[⩲7.c3 0.25/21 Be6 8.Bb3 Bxb3 9.axb3 Nbd7 10.b4 Bxf2+ 11.Kxf2 b5 12.Bd2 bxa4 13.Qxa4 c5 14.b5 d5 15.exd5 Nb6 16.Qc2 c4 17.Nxe5 Qxd5 18.d4 Ne4+ 19.Kg1 Rfe8 20.Nf3 Qxb5 21.h4 Qb3 22.Qb1 Panno,O-Ivkov,B Sao Paulo International 1973 (10) ½-½ Nd5 23.Rh3 h6 24.Qc1 Qb6 25.Ra4 Rab8 26.Ra2 Qb3 27.Qa1 Rb6 28.Kh2 Ndf6 29.Be1 Ng4+ 30.Kg1 Nef6 31.d5 Nxd5 32.Rg3 Ndf6 33.Bd2 Rd6 34.Ra3 Qb6+ 35.Kh1 Nf2+ 36.Kh2 N6g4+ 37.Rxg4 Mcshane,L (2615)-Kramnik,V (2772) Chess Classic 2009 (3) 0-1]

7...Be6 0.42/22

[7...Ba5= -0.17/19]

8.Bb3 0.02/20

[8.Bxe6± 0.42/22 fxe6 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.Bd2]

8...Nbd7 0.42/24

[8...Ba5= 0.02/20]

9.Nxb6 axb6 10.c4 -0.05/22

[10.Bxe6± 0.45/20 fxe6 11.Qe1]

10...Nc5= 11.Bc2 Bg4! 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Ne6 14.Be3 Nd7 15.b4 Ra3 16.Qd1 c5 17.Bc1 Ra8 18.a4 cxb4 19.Rb1 Ndc5 20.Rxb4 Nd4 21.Be3 Nce6 22.Qd2 Ra6 23.Rfb1 Qc7 0.74/24

[23...Nxc2± 0.38/22 is more appropriate. 24.Qxc2 *(24.Bxb6? Rxb6 25.Rxb6 Ncd4-+)* 24...Nc5]

24.Bd1± Rfa8 25.Kh2 h6 26.Qb2 Nc5 27.Qd2

[27.Bxd4 Nxd3 28.Qd2 *(28.Bxb6 Rxb6 29.Rxb6 Nxb2∓)* 28...Nxb4-+]

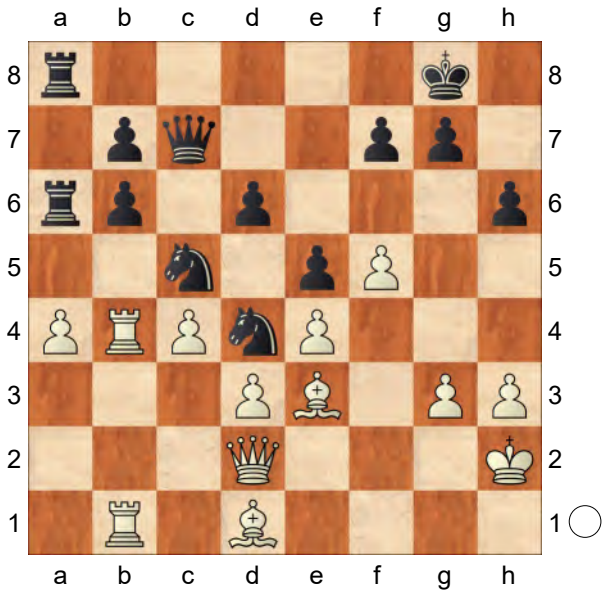
27...Nce6 28.Kh1 Kh7 29.g3 Kg8 30.Kh2 -0.03/24

[30.h4± 0.68/20]

30...Kh7 0.77/21

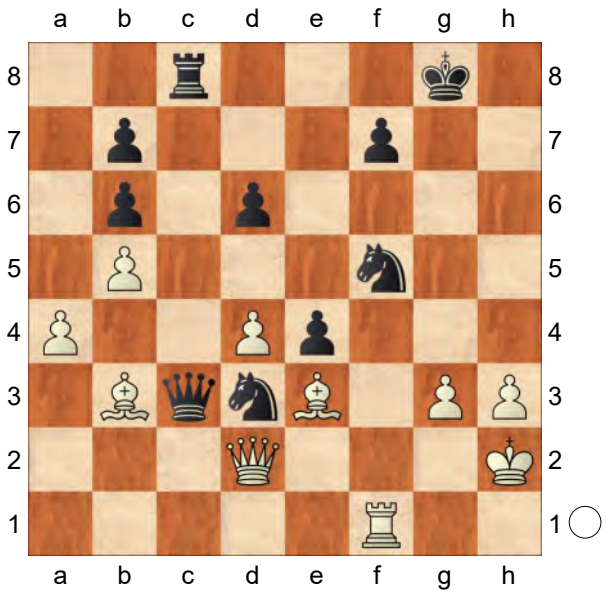
[30...Rxa4= -0.03/24 31.Rxb6 *(31.Rxa4 Rxa4 32.Qb2 Ra5=)* 31...R4a7]

31.f4 Kg8 32.f5 Nc5

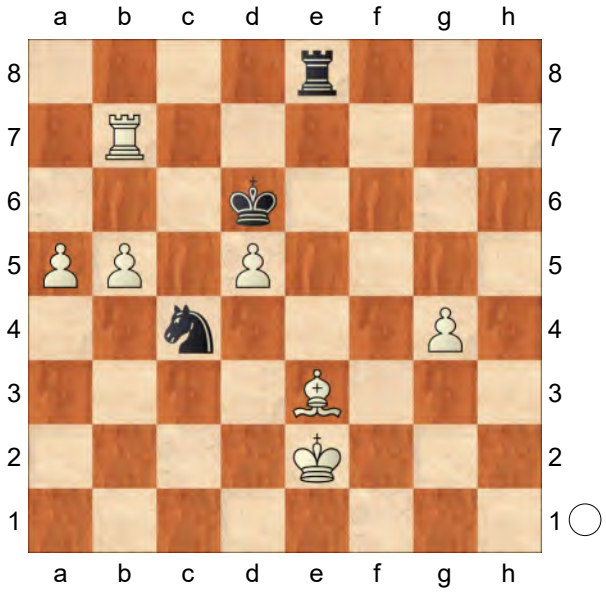


33.f6! 0.25/18 **gxf6= 34.Ra1 Qe7**

35.Bxh6 -0.36/24
[35.Bxd4= 0.16/21 exd4 36.Bc2 *(36.Qxh6 Nxd3 37.Rb3 Qxe4=)*]
35...f5 0.10/21
[35...Nxa4!∓ -0.36/24 36.Be3 Nc5 37.Rxa6 Rxa6]
36.exf5 White wants to play Bh6-g5.
36...Nxf5
[36...Qf6!?]
37.Be3 e4 38.d4 Wards off Qe7-e5. Threatens to win with Rb4-b5. **38...Nd3**
39.Rb5 Ra5 40.Bc2 0.00/25
[40.Bg4± 0.43/23 Nxe3 41.Qxe3]
40...Rxb5 41.cxb5 Rc8 42.Bb3 aiming for Ra1-f1. **42...Qc7?** 2.33/21
[42...d5= -0.04/23 43.Rf1 *(43.Bxd5? Qd6-+)* 43...Qe6]
43.Rf1+- Qc3



44.Bxf7+ 0.29/21
[White has to play 44.Qe2!+- 2.21/25 Hoping for Qe2-g4+. Qxb3 *(44...Nxe3? 45.Bxf7+ Kg7 46.Qxe3+-)* 45.Qg4+ *(45.Rxf5? Rc2-+ Pin)* 45...Kh8 46.Rxf5 *(46.Qxf5 Qe6±)* 46...Rc2+ 47.Kg1 Qb1+ 48.Rf1]
44...Kxf7= 45.Rxf5+
[45.Qxc3 simplifies Rxc3 46.Rxf5+ Kg8 47.Bf4]
45...Ke6 46.Qxc3 Rxc3 Endgame. KRB-KRN **47.g4** And now d4-d5+ would win. **47...Ne1?** 2.81/22
[47...Nb4= 0.30/19 and Black stays safe. 48.Bg5 *(48.Bd2 Rc2=)* 48...Ra3]
48.d5++- Kd7 49.Bxb6 -0.05/18
[49.Bf2+- 3.20/19 Nf3+ 50.Kg2]
49...Nf3+= 50.Kg3
[50.Kh1 Rc2 *(50...Rc1+ 51.Kg2∓)* 51.Rxf3 exf3∓]
50...Nd2+? 4.94/20
[50...Nd4+= -0.03/16 and Black has nothing to worry. 51.Kf4 Nxf5 52.gxf5 Ke7 *(52...Rxh3 53.Be3=)*]
51.Kf2+- Rxh3 52.Rf7+ Kc8? 6.44/18
[52...Ke8 3.83/19 53.Rxb7 e3+ 54.Bxe3 Ne4+ 55.Ke2 Nc3+ 56.Kd3 Nxd5]
53.Rc7+ Kb8 54.Rd7 Rh8 55.Rxd6 Kc8 56.Rf6 Nc4 57.a5 Kd7 58.Rf7+ Skewer **58...Kd6 59.Rxb7 e3+ 60.Bxe3 Rf8+ 61.Ke2 Re8**



62.Kd3! Nxe3 KRN-KR **63.a6 Nxd5 64.a7 Re3+ 65.Kd4 Ra3 66.Rg7?** 0.02/5
[66.g5+- 4.13/20]

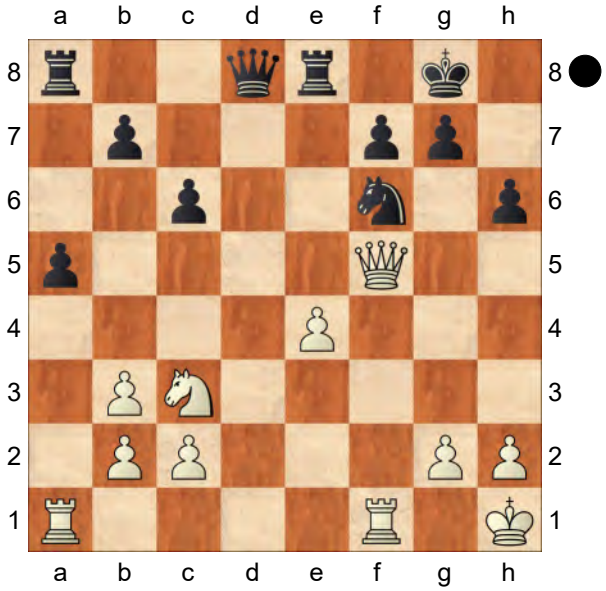
66...Ra4+= The position is equal.
[Not 66...Nc7? 67.Rg6+ *(67.b6 Ne6+ 68.Ke4 Ra4+ 69.Kf3 Ra3+ 70.Kg2 Nxg7+-)* 67...Ke7 *(67...Ne6+? 68.Rxe6+ Kxe6 69.b6+-)* 68.b6+-]
67.Kd3 Rg7-g6+ is the strong threat. **67...Kc5 68.g5** Rg7-b7 would now be deadly. **68...Kxb5 69.g6 Nf4+ 70.Kc3** Strongly threatening Rg7-b7+. **70...Nxg6 71.Rxg6**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.40
½-½

C28

□ **Andreikin,Dmitry** **2729**
■ **Anton Guijarro,David** **2672**
Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Feb Late blitz (10)
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.d3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 exf4 outshines the older 6...Ng4.erfolgreicher als das alte 6...Sg4. **7.Bxf4 d6 8.Bg5** -0.44/20
[8.Qd2= -0.02/20 Be6 9.Bg5 *(9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.0-0-0 Bb4 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 Qd7 13.Bxf6 Rxf6 14.d4 Ne7 15.Qd3 Bxc3 16.Qxc3 Rf4 17.Rhe1 Raf8 18.Rd3 a6 19.Qb3 b5 20.Qa3 Ra8 21.g3 Rf7 22.g4 Ng6 23.g5 h5* Derraugh,G (2116)-Perdomo,L (2402) Rio de Janeiro op 2nd 2023 (5) ½-½*)* 9...Bxc4 10.dxc4 Bb4 11.Qf4 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Qe7 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Qxf6 gxf6 15.0-0 Rae8 16.Nd2 Kg7 17.Rf4 Re5 18.Rb1 b6 19.Rb5 Rfe8 20.Kf2 h5 21.Rh4 Kg6 22.Nf3 Rxb5 23.cxb5 Ponomariov,R (2699)-Hou,Y (2666) Biel GM 50th 2017 (4) ½-½]

8...h6∓ 9.Bh4 Be6N
[9...Bg4 10.Qd2 Bxf3 11.gxf3 Nxe4 Gelemerov,Y-Pregal,J Bogatyrchuk mem corr9092 1990 0-1]
10.Qe2 -0.95/24
[10.Bxe6= -0.23/22 fxe6 11.Qd2]
10...Nd4 -0.25/21
[10...Bxc4∓ -0.95/24 11.dxc4 g5]
11.Nxd4= Bxd4 12.Bb3 a5 13.Bf2? -2.15/23
[13.Nb5= -0.29/20 and White has nothing to worry. Bxb2 14.Rb1]
13...Bxf2+? -0.36/17
[13...Bxc3+-+ -2.15/23 14.bxc3 Bg4]
14.Qxf2∓ Ng4N -0.02/23
[Vorgänger: 14...Bxb3 15.axb3 d5! 16.0-0 dxe4 17.dxe4 c6 18.Qf5 -0.93/22 *(*Better is *18.e5∓* -0.36/23 *Nd7 19.Rfe1)* 18...Re8∓ 19.Kh1 -1.67/20 *(19.Qc5∓* -0.72/21 *)*



19...Qc7!-+ 20.Rf3 -2.25/19 *(20.Qf4∓* -1.57/20 was called for. *Qe5 21.Rf2)* 20...Re5 Abdrlauf,E (2362)-Elsness,F (2454) Fagernes op 2020 (8) 0-1]
[14...a4∓ -0.45/23 15.Bxa4 d5]
15.Qf4 Qh4+ 16.g3 Qg5 17.h3 Hoping for Qf4xg5. **17...Ne5 18.h4?** -1.39/21

[18.Qxg5= 0.17/22 Nf3+ 19.Ke2 Nxg5 20.h4 Bg4+ 21.Ke3]

18...Qg4 -0.03/23

[18...Qh5∓ -1.39/21 Threatens to win with ...a5-a4! 19.0-0 a4 20.Nxa4 g5 21.hxg5 *(21.Qf6? Ng4-+)* 21...hxg5]

19.Rf1

[19.Qxg4 simplifies Nxg4 20.Kd2 c6 21.Raf1]

19...g5 0.44/21

[Black should play 19...Qg6∓ -0.36/21]

20.Qxg4 Nxg4 21.Kd2 0.00/25

[21.Nb5± 0.42/21]

21...c6= 22.Ne2 a4 23.Bxe6 fxe6 24.hxg5 hxg5 25.Nd4 Rfe8 0.48/26

[25...Rxf1!= 0.09/25 26.Rxf1 Re8]

26.Rh1

[26.Nf3 simplifies Ra5 27.b4 axb3 28.axb3 Rxa1 29.Rxa1 Kg7 30.Ra7]

26...Kg7 27.Rh5 Kg6 0.76/21

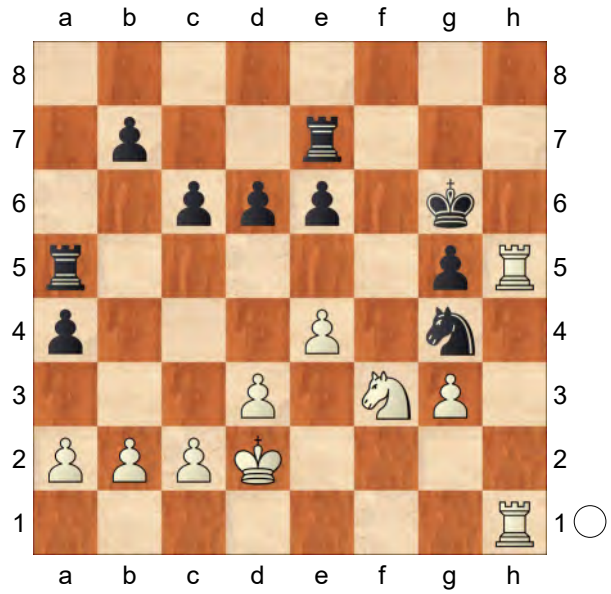
[27...Ra5= 0.30/25]

28.Rah1± Re7 2.19/26

[28...Nf6± 0.87/22 29.Rh6+ Kg7]

29.Nf3+- Ra5 2.36/19

[29...Kf6 1.82/23 was necessary. 30.Rxg5 *(30.Nxg5 Rg7±)* 30...Rg7]



30.e5! Nxe5 3.54/20

[⌓30...Rxe5 2.13/24 31.Nxe5+ Nxe5]

31.Rxg5+

[31.Nxg5? loses. Nf3+ 32.Nxf3 Rxh5-+]

31...Kf7 32.Nxe5+ Rxe5? 5.76/23

[32...dxe5 2.86/18 33.Rh2 Rd5]

33.Rxe5 White is clearly winning.

33...dxe5 Endgame. KR-KR **34.Rh7+ Kf6 35.Rxe7 Kxe7 36.Ke3 Kf6 37.Ke4 c5 38.c4 b6 39.a3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/ Black=0.60

1-0

C28

□ **Bortnyk,Olexandr** **2608**

■ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2737**

Bullet Chess Losers blitz (3.14) 12.06.24

[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.d3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Na5 5.Bb3 Nxb3 6.axb3 Be7 7.f4 exf4 8.Bxf4 d6 9.Nf3 0-0 10.0-0 Be6

[10...c6 11.d4 d5 12.e5 Ne4 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Ne1 Be6 15.Be3 f5 16.exf6 Rxf6 17.Rxf6 Bxf6 18.g3 Qd7 19.Ng2 Bg4 20.Qd2 b6 21.c3 Bf3 22.Ne1 Re8 23.Bg5 Bxg5 24.Qxg5 a5 25.Qe3 Rogers,I (2594)-Lagno,K (2454) Gibraltar Masters 2005 (5) ½-½]

11.d4N -0.29/25 Leaves trodden paths. Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade.

[White should try 11.h3± 0.40/19]

[11.Nd4 Qd7 12.Bg5 d5 13.exd5 Nxd5 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16.Qf3 Nb4 17.Qf2 Qb6 18.d4 Rad8 19.Na4 Qg6 20.c3 Nd5 21.Qf5 Qh6 22.Rf3 b6 23.c4 Nf6 24.d5 Rfe8 25.Qf4 Qg6 Zvjaginsev,

V (2598)-Zverev,L (2307) RUS-ch Rapid 2022 (6) 1-0]

11...Nd7N 0.48/23

[Vorgänger: 11...c6 0.00/22 11…d6-d5 -0.49 12.Qd3 d5 13.e5 Nd7 14.Rae1 c5 15.Ne2 f6 0.48/18 *(15...cxd4= 0.09/19 16.Nfxd4 Nc5)* 16.Ng3 0.00/24 *(16.exf6± 0.48/18 Rxf6 17.Bg3)* 16...fxe5= 17.Nxe5 cxd4! 18.Nxd7 Qxd7 Farkas,V (1581)-Laszlo,B (1693) HUN-chT Region CSB 2021 (2.2) 0-1]

[11...d5= -0.29/25]

12.h3± Threatens to win with d4-d5.

12...f5 1.25/19

[12...c6± 0.46/19]

13.d5± Bf7 1.91/21

[13...fxe4± 1.32/22 might work better. 14.dxe6 Rxf4]

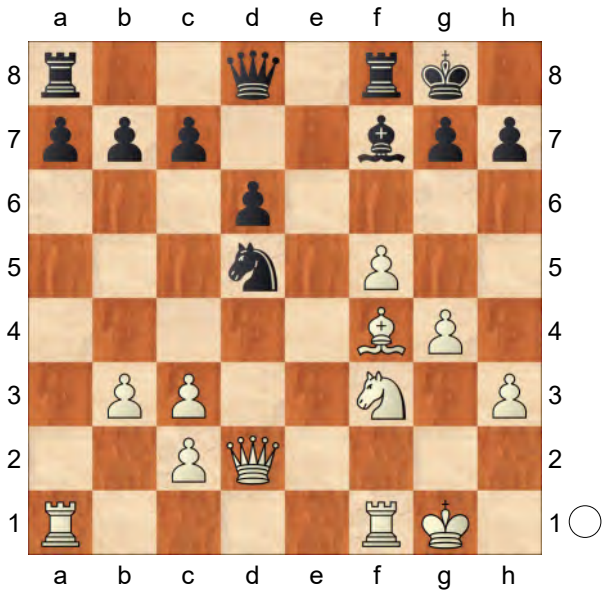
14.exf5+- Bf6 2.08/19

[⌓14...Nb6 1.69/20 15.Qd2 Bf6]

15.g4 Nb6 16.Qd2 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Strongly threatening Bf4-g5.

[17.Qxc3?! Nxd5 18.Qd4 Nxf4 19.Qxf4 b6±]

17...Nxd5



18.Bg5 White is more active. **18...Qd7** 2.73/19 This costs Black the game.

[18...Nf6± 1.23/22]

19.c4 Nb6 4.37/19

[19...Nf6 2.93/19 keeps fighting. 20.Bxf6 gxf6]

20.f6 Black is weak on the dark squares

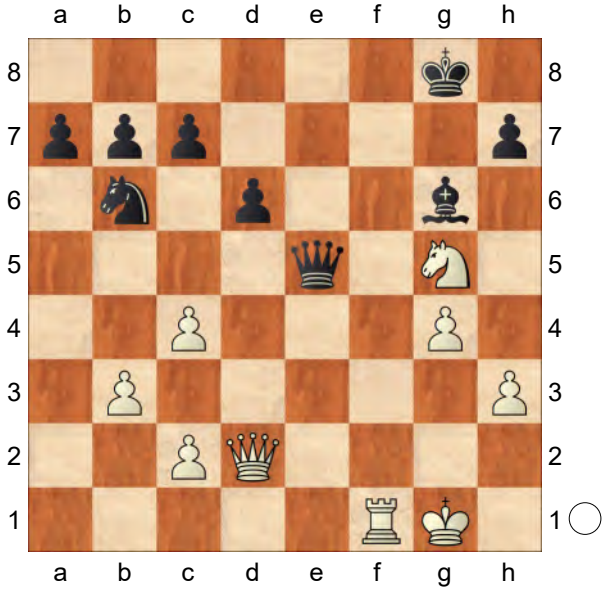
20...Bg6 21.fxg7 Rf7 22.Bh6 Re8 23.Ng5 Discovered Attack

[23.Rxa7 Qc6 24.Kg2 Be4±]

23...Rxg7 24.Bxg7 Qxg7 25.Rae1 Wards off Qg7-e5

[But not 25.Rxa7 Qe5 26.Qf4 *(26.Rxb7 Qg3+ 27.Kh1 h6+-)* 26...Qc5+ 27.Kh2 h6]

25...Re5 26.Rxe5 Qxe5



27.Qf2! Dodges Qe5-g3+ **27...Qe7** Inhibits Qf2-f8+.

[27...Nd7 28.Nf3]

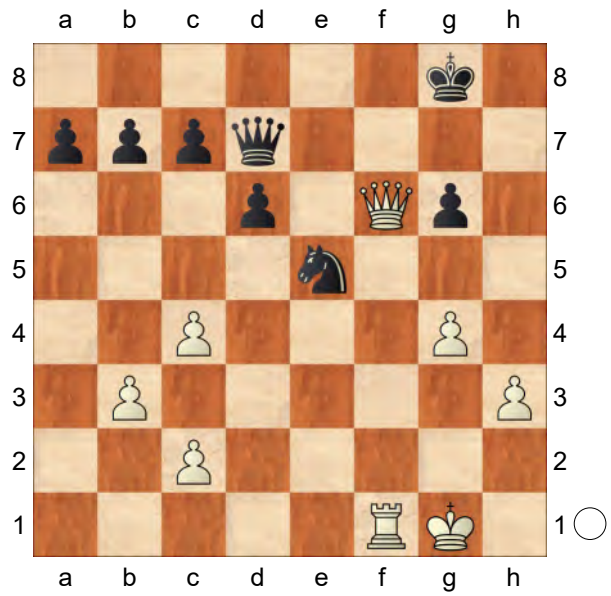
28.Nf3 Nd7 29.Nh4 Ne5 30.Nxg6 White is clearly winning. **30...hxg6** Endgame. KQR-KQN **31.Qf6**

[Don't play 31.Qxa7 b6 32.Qa8+ Kg7+-]

31...Qd7 6.92/22

[⌓31...Qe8 4.51/19 32.Qf4 Qe7]

(Diagram)

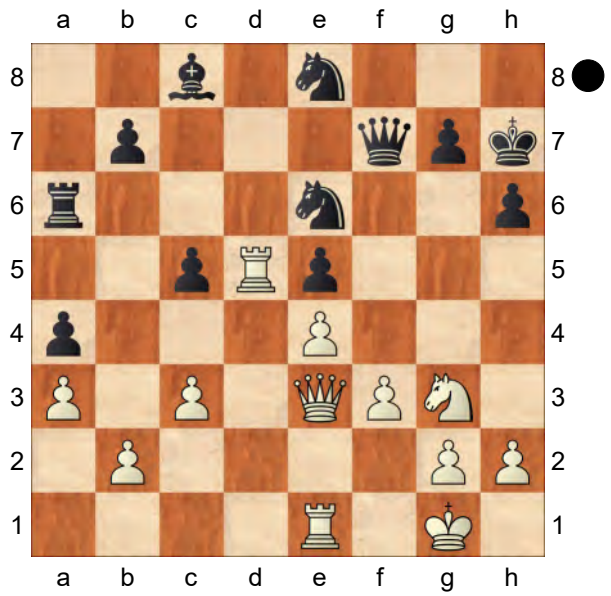


32.c5! b6
[32...Qg7 33.cxd6]
33.cxd6 cxd6 34.c4 Qc7 35.Rd1 Qc5+ 36.Qf2 Qc6 37.Rd5 b5 38.Qf6 Rd5xe5 would now be deadly.
[38.cxb5? loses. Qxd5 39.Qxa7 Qxb5 40.Qa8+ Kf7 41.Qa7+ Ke6-+]
38...bxc4 39.Rxd6 Qc5+ 40.Kg2 Nf7 Dodges Rd6-d8+ **41.Rd7**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.45/ Black=0.73
1-0

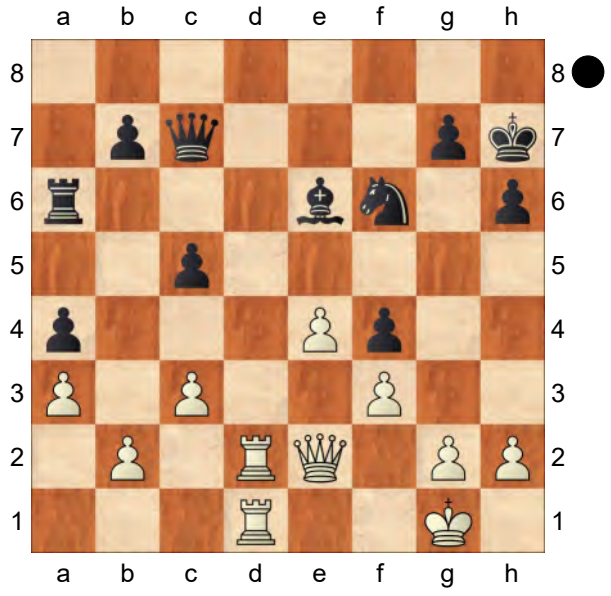
C24
□ **Andreikin,Dmitry 2729**
■ **Shirov,Alexei 2660**
Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Feb Late blitz (4)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Nbxd2 White wants to play e4xd5. **7...a5** aiming for ...a5-a4. **8.a3**
[8.Nxe5? a4 9.Bxa4 Rxa4-+]
8...a4 9.Ba2 Nbd7 The position is equal. **10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 Re8**
12.Nf1N A top novelty.Eine Top Neuerung.
[Vorgänger: 12.d4 exd4 13.exd5 c5 *(13...Rxe1+ 14.Qxe1 cxd5 15.Rb1 Qb6 16.Nf1 Nf8 17.Qd1 Ne6* Bishop'S Opening,V-Bishop's Opening, V *)* 14.Rxe8+ Nxe8 15.Ne4 Nef6 16.Neg5 Hoping for d5-d6. h6 17.Ne6 -1.45/21 *(17.Nxf7=* -0.25/22 was the only way to keep the balance. *Kxf7 18.d6+ Kf8 19.Qd3)* 17...Qb6∓ 18.Qe1 Wards off Nf6-e4 Qd6 -0.87/19 *(⌓18...Qxb2* -1.55/20 And now ...b7-b5! would win. *19.Nc7 Rb8)* 19.Nd2 -1.91/23 *(19.Nh4∓* -0.87/19 *g6 20.Nxg6)* 19...b5-+ 20.Qe2? -3.35/21 *(20.Ne4* -1.64/18 *Nxe4 21.Qxe4)* 20...Nb6 21.Re1 fxe6 22.dxe6 Black must now prevent e6-e7+. c4 Vachier Lagrave,M (2736)-Carlsen,M (2859) Speed Chess Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (3.27) 0-1]
[12.h3 simplifies h6 13.d4 *(13.Nf1 dxe4 14.dxe4 Qc7* Bishop'S Opening, V-Bishop's Opening,V*)* 13...exd4 14.exd5 Rxe1+ 15.Qxe1 c5 16.Qe2]
12...dxe4 13.Ng5 Re7 14.dxe4
[14.Nxe4 simplifies Nxe4 15.dxe4 Qc7 16.Qh5]
14...h6 15.Nxf7 -1.23/19
[15.Nf3= -0.15/21]
15...Rxf7∓ 16.Qd6 Repels Qd8-c7
16...Qf8 17.Qc7 -2.09/24
[17.Bxf7+∓ -1.21/22 Kxf7 *(17...Qxf7 18.Rad1∓)* 18.Qd3]
17...Kh7 18.Bxf7 Qxf7 19.Rad1 Ne8 20.Qd8 Nc5 21.Ng3 Ne6 22.Qb6 Nd4 23.c3 Ne6 24.f3 -2.33/20
[⌓24.Nf5 -1.76/18]
24...Ra6-+ 25.Qe3 c5 26.Rd5

(Diagram)



Qc7 27.Red1 Nf6 28.R5d2 Nf4 29.Ne2 Be6? -0.74/16
[29...N6h5-+ -2.60/20 has better winning chances. Threatens to win with ...Ra6-g6. 30.Ng3 Rg6 31.Nxh5 Nxh5]
30.Nxf4∓ exf4 31.Qe2 -2.21/23
[31.Qd3∓ -0.84/22 Qe5 32.Qb5]



31...Nd7!-+ 32.Qb5 Ne5 33.Rd8 Qc6 34.Qe2 -3.01/24
[⌓34.Qxc6 -1.76/19 Rxc6 35.Re8]
34...Bb3 35.R1d2 Bc4 36.Qd1
White is weak on the light squares
36...Bb3 37.Qe1 c4? -0.74/25
[37...Qf6-+ -2.87/20 is more deadly. ... Qf6-e7 would now be deadly. 38.Rb8 Qg5]
38.R2d5 -1.22/23
[⌓38.Qf2 -0.74/25]
38...Nd3 39.Qh4 -2.23/23
[39.Qe2∓ -0.99/17]
39...Qb6+
[39...Nxb2? 40.Qxf4 Qb6+ 41.Rd4+-]
40.Rd4 Ra5?? 4.50/21
[40...Nxb2? 41.Qxf4 Qc5 42.Qb8+-]
[40...Ba2-+ -2.03/22 41.R8d7 Ne5 *(41...Nxb2 42.Qxf4 Nd3 43.Qf5+ Qg6 44.Rxb7+-; 41...Qxb2 42.Rxg7+ Kh8 43.Rd8+ Kxg7 44.Rd7+ Kg6 45.Qg4+ Kf6 46.Qf5#)* 42.Qxf4 Nxd7 43.Qf5+ Kh8 44.Qxd7 Ra8 *(44...Qxb2 45.Qe8+ Kh7 46.Rd8=)*]
41.Qe7+- Qe7-f8 would kill now.
41...Rg5 8.15/21
[⌓41...Ra6 4.59/18 42.Qf8 Bd1 43.Qf5+ Qg6 44.Rxc4 Qxf5 45.exf5 Rf6]
42.Qf7 Qc5 43.Qg8+
[Worse is 43.Qxb7 Bd1 *(43...Nxb2? too greedy. 44.h4+-)* 44.R8d5 Bxf3 *(44...Rxd5 45.Qxd5 Bb3 46.Qxc5±)* 45.Rxc5 Rxg2+ 46.Kf1 Rf2+ 47.Kg1 Rg2+ 48.Kf1 Rf2+ 49.Kg1 Rg2+=]
43...Kg6 44.Qe8+ Kh7 45.h4
White wants to mate with h4-h5!
45...Rg3 46.h5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.47/ Black=0.56
1-0

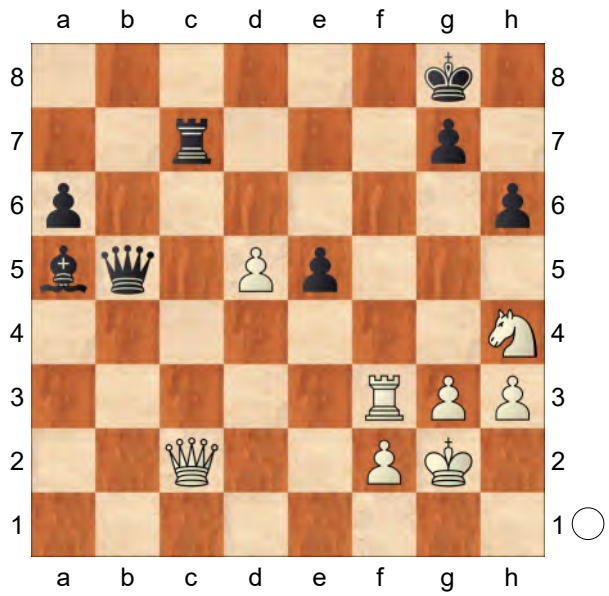
C50

□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2795**
■ **Xiong,Jeffery** **2681**
Saint Louis Rapid (9) 16.11.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bc5N
[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 19.Raxd1 Deschamps,Q (2632)-Lopez Ramirez,D (2436) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (8) 1-0 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 axb4 21.Re7 Rc8 22.a5 Kf8 23.Re4 Na8 24.Rd7 Re8 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.Rxg7 h5 Chigaev,M (2632)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2737) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Feb Late blitz 2023 (5) 0-1]
5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 Be7 7.Bg3 d6 8.a4 0-0 The position is equal. **9.a5!?** An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante.
9...a6N
[Vorgänger: 9...Be6 10.Nbd2 Bxc4 11.Nxc4 b5 12.axb6 axb6 13.Rxa8 Qxa8 14.0-0 Qa2 15.Qc1 -1.38/20 *(15.b3=* -0.14/20 keeps the balance.*)* 15...Nh5 -0.01/18 Yu,Y (2735)-Le,Q (2728) Biel Blitz 56th 2023 (10) ½-½ *(15...Nxe4!∓* -1.38/20 *16.Ne3 Nxg3 17.hxg3 Qe6)*]
10.Nbd2 Be6 0.46/19
[10...b6= 0.00/20 should be considered.]
11.Bxe6± fxe6 12.0-0 Nh7 13.c3 Ng5 14.Qb3 Qd7 15.Rfe1
[15.Qxb7? Rfb8-+]
15...Rab8 16.h3 0.14/19
[16.Qc4± 0.54/16 deserves consideration.]
16...Bf6 17.Qc4 Rbd8 18.b4 Ne7 19.Qb3 Ng6 20.d4 Kh7 21.Rad1 exd4 22.cxd4 Be7 23.Qc2 Nxf3+ 24.Nxf3 Nf4 25.Re3 Kg8 26.d5 e5 27.Rc3 Black must now prevent Bg3xf4!
27...Rc8 28.Rc1 Bg3xf4! would now be deadly. **28...Bd8 29.Bxf4 Rxf4 30.g3 Rf7 31.Kg2 Qb5 32.Rb1 c6** 1.46/20
[⌓32...Bf6 1.00/18 33.Rb2 Bd8]
33.Qb3 0.78/21
[White should play 33.Nxe5! 1.46/20 Rfc7 *(33...dxe5? 34.Rc5+-)* 34.Ng6]
33...Rcc7± 34.dxc6 bxc6 1.17/22
[34...Rxc6± 0.70/22 35.Rd3 Be7]
35.Rd1 Be7 36.Rdd3 White is more active. **36...Bf8 37.Nh4** 0.72/22
[⌓37.Rc2 1.12/20]
37...Kh7 1.97/21
[37...c5± 0.72/22]
38.Rf3+- d5 39.exd5 Hoping for d5-d6!
39...Bxb4 40.Rxc6 1.06/24
[40.Qc2++- 1.72/21 Kg8 41.Rc4 *(41.Rxc6 Bxa5 42.Qe4 Rxf3+-)*]
40...Bxa5 2.24/22
[40...e4± 1.06/24 41.Rxf7 Rxf7]
41.Qc2+ Kg8 42.Rxc7 Rxc7

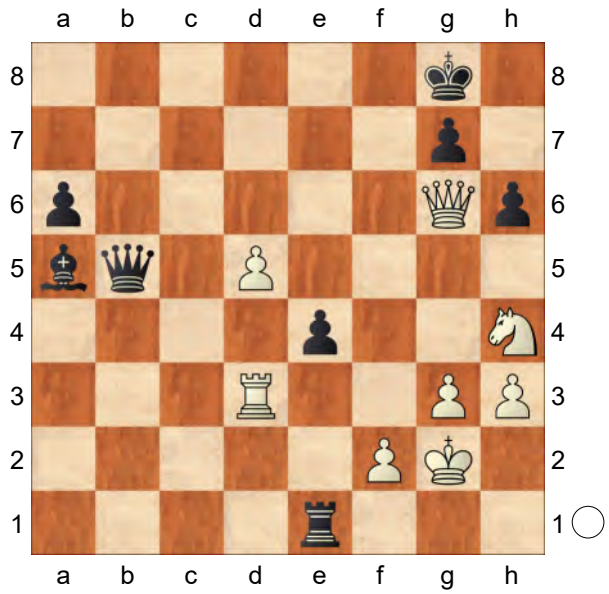
(Diagram)

43.Qe4 0.06/21 Really sharp!
[White should try 43.Qg6!± 1.16/21 Qg6-e6+ would kill now. Qxd5 44.Nf5 *(44.Qxa6 Rc3=)*]
43...Rc1= 44.Rd3 Threatens to win with Nh4-f5!
[44.Qxe5? Qf1+ 45.Kh2 Qh1#]
44...Re1? 2.22/26
[44...Ra1!= 0.10/21 and Black is okay. 45.Qxe5 Qxd3 46.Qxa1 Qxd5+ 47.Nf3 Qb5]



45.Qg6→ Black is in trouble. **45...e4?** 12.93/24

[45...Qb1 1.91/22]



46.Nf5! Bc3

[46...Qd7 47.Rb3]

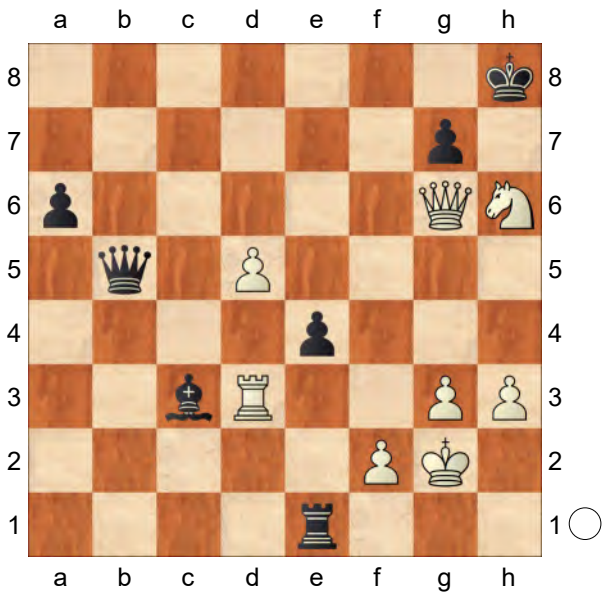
47.Nxh6+

[47.Rxc3? Qf1+ 48.Kh2 Qxf2#]

47...Kh8

(Diagram)

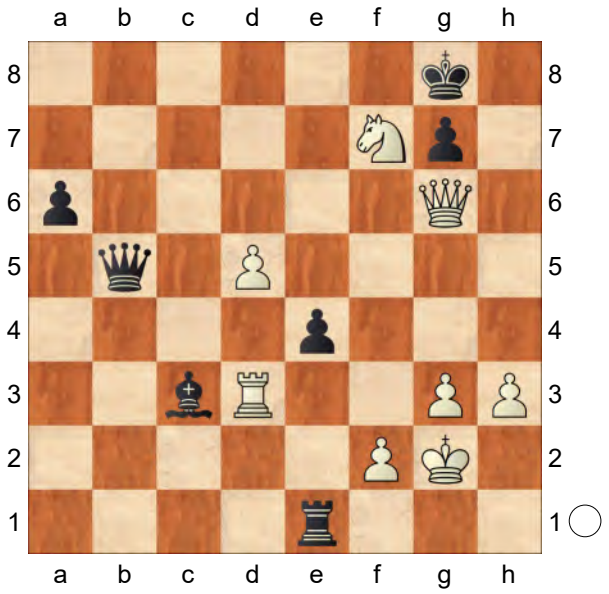
48.Nf7+!



[48.Rxc3? Qf1+ 49.Kh2 Qxf2#]

[And not 48.Qe6 Kh7 49.Nf7 *(49.Rxc3?* is a self mate. *Qf1+* Deflection *50.Kh2 Qxf2#; 49.Qf5+? g6-+)* 49...Bf6 *(49...Qxd3 50.Ng5+ Kh8 51.Qe8#)* 50.Qf5+ Kg8=]

48...Kg8



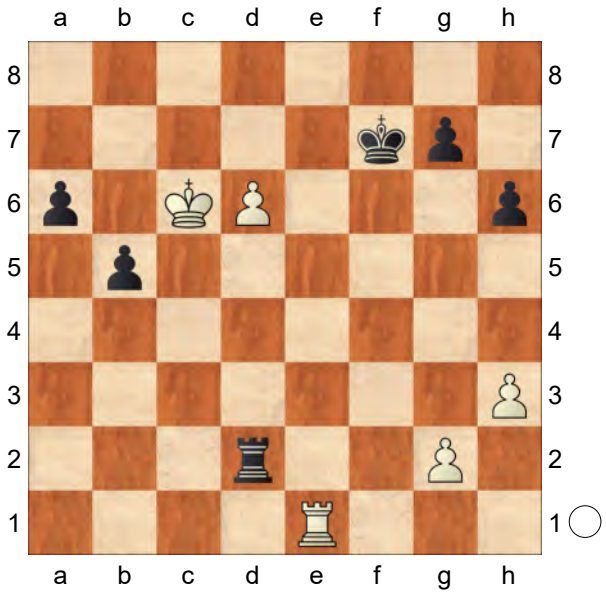
49.Ng5!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.35

1-0

C50
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2839**
■ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2727**
AI Cup Div 1 W rapid (3.3) 27.09.2023
[Kitty Kat]

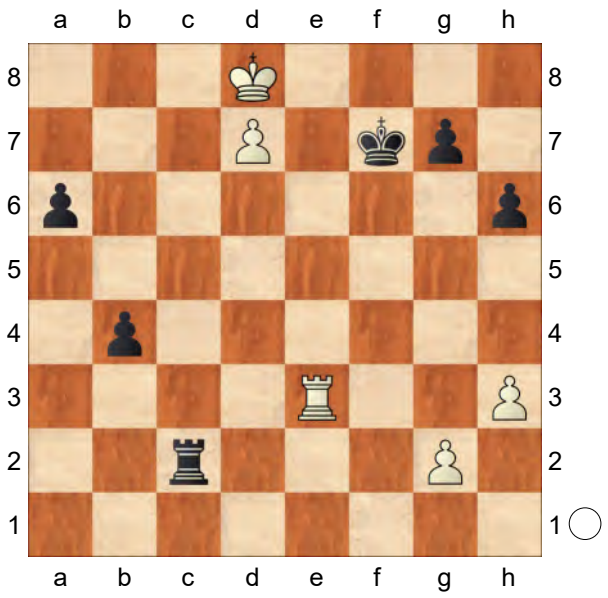
C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bc5N
[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 19.Raxd1 Deschamps,Q (2632)-Lopez Ramirez,D (2436) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (8) 1-0 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 axb4 21.Re7 Rc8 22.a5 Kf8 23.Re4 Na8 24.Rd7 Re8 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.Rxg7 h5 Chigaev,M (2632)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2737) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Feb Late blitz 2023 (5) 0-1]
5.Nc3 h6 6.h3 a6 7.a4 d6 8.Be3 Bxe3 9.fxe3 Be6 10.b3 0-0 11.0-0 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Qd2 Nxc3 14.Qxc3 Qd6 15.Nd2 f5 16.Bxe6+ Qxe6 17.Qc4 Qxc4 18.bxc4 e4 19.d4 f4 Deflection **20.Rxf4 Rxf4 21.exf4** Black should prevent c2-c3. **21...Nxd4 22.Nxe4=** Endgame. KRN-KRN **22...Ne2+ 23.Kf2 Nxf4 24.Rb1 b6 25.c5 Rf8 26.cxb6 cxb6 27.c4 Nd5+ 28.Ke2 Re8** 0.88/23
[28...Nf6± 0.31/23 29.Nc3 Re8+ 30.Kd3 Nd7]
29.cxd5± Rxe4+ KR-KR **30.Kd3 Rxa4 31.d6!** d6-d7! would now be deadly.
[31.Rxb6?! Kf7=]
31...Kf7 32.Re1! White has strong compensation. **32...Ra5 33.Kd4** Inhibits Ra5-d5+. **33...Ra2 34.Kd5 Rd2+ 35.Kc6** aiming for d6-d7. **35...b5**



36.d7 0.59/25
[36.Re7+!+- 1.73/23 Kf6 37.Re4]
36...Rc2+!± 37.Kb6 Rd2 38.Kc7
[38.Kxa6 Rxd7 *(38...Rxg2 39.d8Q Ra2+ 40.Kb6 Kg6 41.Qf8 Kg5 42.Rg1+)* 39.Kxb5 Rd2∓]
38...Rc2+ 39.Kd8 b4! 40.Re7+
[40.Rb1!? a5□ 41.g4=]
40...Kf8 41.Re3 0.01/25
[White should try 41.Re8+± 1.08/25 Kf7 42.Re7+ Kf8 43.Re4]
41...Kf7 1.24/22
[41...a5? 42.Rf3+ Kg8 43.Rf5+-]
[41...g6= 0.01/25]

(Diagram)

42.Re7+ 0.01/22
[42.Rf3+!± 1.24/22 Kg6 *(42...Ke6? 43.Ke8+-)* 43.g4]
42...Kf8⇄ Black is fighting back. The position is equal. **43.Re5**
[43.Re4!? b3□ 44.Rf4+ Kg8 45.Rb4=]
43...g6 Wards off Re5-f5+
[43...Rxg2 44.Rf5+ Kg8 45.Ke7



(45.Kc8 Rd2+-) 45...Re2+ 46.Kd6+-]

44.Re6 Threatens to win with Re6-f6+.

44...b3 45.Rf6+

[45.Rxg6 b2 46.Rf6+ *(46.Rxa6 b1Q 47.Rf6+ Kg7)* 46...Kg7∓]

45...Kg7 46.Ke7

[46.Rb6!? b2□ 47.Ke7 Re2+ *(47...Rxg2? loses. 48.d8Q+-)* 48.Kd6 Rd2+ 49.Kc7 Rc2+ *(49...Rxg2 50.d8Q h5 51.Qf6+ Kh7 52.Rb8 Rc2+ 53.Kd7 Rd2+ 54.Ke7 Re2+ 55.Kf7)* 50.Kb8=]

46...Re2+

[Not 46...Rxg2 47.Rf7+ Kh8 48.d8Q#]

47.Re6 Rxe6+ 48.Kxe6 b2 49.d8Q Qd8-c7+ would kill now. **49...b1Q 50.Qc7+ Kg8** White must now prevent ... Qb1-f5+. **51.Qd8+ Kg7** White really could win this.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise) . Sensor Board Error (Ke4/e5)?

1-0

C42

□ **Rapport,Richard 2752**

■ **Gukesh,Dommaraju 2758**

Armageddon Grand Finale L blitz (2.1)

[Kitty Kat]

C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d3 Bb4 5.Nf3 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Bxc3 8.bxc3 0-0 9.Qe1N

[9.Bd2 Bg4 10.Re1 Qd6 11.Rb1 Nb6 12.Bb5 Rae8 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.c4 Na4 15.Qe2 f5 16.Qe3 e4 17.dxe4 Rxe4 18.Qxa7 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Rxe1+ 20.Bxe1 Nb6 21.c5 Qg6+ 22.Kf1 Nd5 23.Rb8 Qh5 C1 Nd4-Brochet,P 56/329 Debrecen 1992 (3) 1-0 24.Rxf8+ Kxf8 25.Qb8+ Ke7 26.Qb3 Qxh2 27.Bd2 Qh1+ 28.Ke2 Qa1 29.c4 Qe5+ 30.Kf1 Nf6 31.Bc3 Qe6 32.a4 g5 33.a5 g4 34.a6 gxf3 35.Bxf6+ Qxf6 36.Qe3+ Kf7 37.Qxf3 Qa1+ 38.Kg2 Qxa6 Bernstein,O-Alekhine,A Match Paris (France) 1933 (3) 1-0]

9...Re8 10.Ng5 Bf5 Prevents Qe1-e4

11.Rb1 White has an edge. **11...h6**

12.Ne4 0.01/19

[12.Rb5± 0.45/21 was preferrable. hxg5 13.Bxd5]

12...Nb6= 13.Bb5 Qe7 14.f3 Bd7 15.g4 -0.70/18

[15.Be3= -0.15/18]

15...a6∓ 16.Bxc6 Bxc6 17.c4 Nd7 18.Qb4 Qxb4 -0.44/22

[18...Qe6∓ -0.85/17 19.Ng3 a5]

19.Rxb4 Nf8 20.Be3 b6 21.Nc3 Ne6 22.Kf2 Rad8 23.a4 -1.26/22

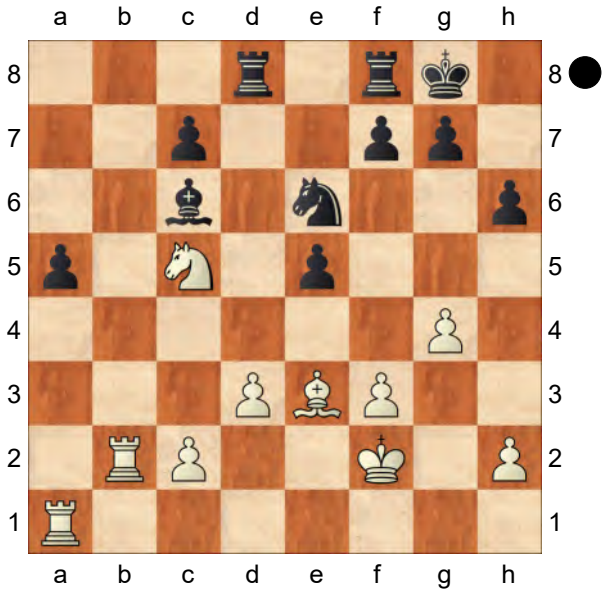
[23.Ne2∓ -0.59/19]

23...a5 24.Rb2 Rf8 25.Ne4 -1.53/21

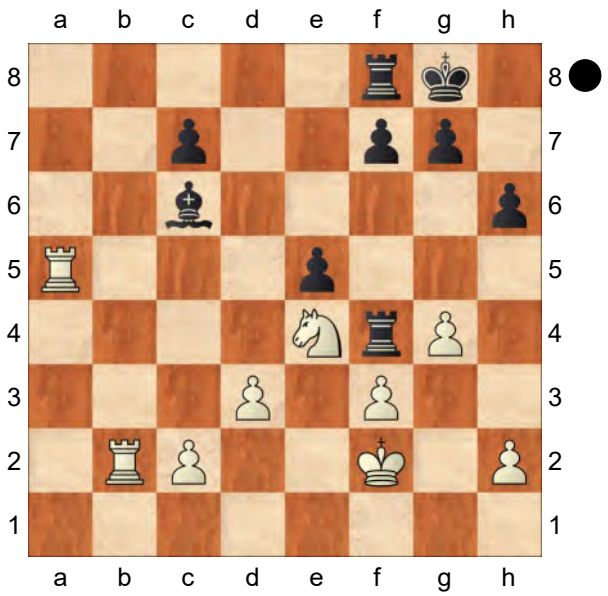
[⌓25.Ke2 -1.12/20]

25...Bxa4 -0.60/23

[25...f5!∓ -1.53/21 26.gxf5 Rxf5]
26.c5 bxc5 27.Nxc5 Bc6 28.Ra1



Nd4 0.01/22
[Better is 28...Ra8!∓ -0.95/22 29.Rba2 Nxc5 30.Bxc5 Rfb8]
29.Bxd4 -1.05/23
[29.Rxa5= 0.01/22 was the only way to keep the balance. Rd6 *(29...Nxf3 30.Ra6±)* 30.Ne4 Bxe4 31.Bxd4 *(31.dxe4 Rc6±; 31.fxe4 Rf6+ 32.Kg2 Nf3±)* 31...Rxd4 32.fxe4]
29...Rxd4∓ 30.Rxa5 Rf4 31.Ne4

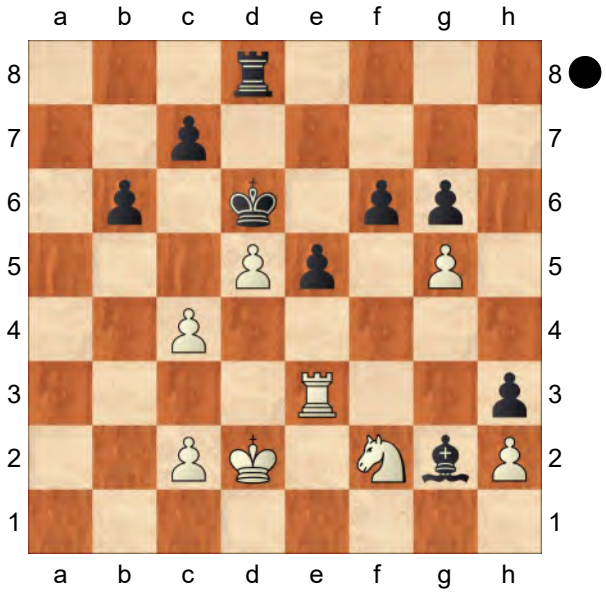


f5! 32.gxf5 R8xf5 -0.13/22
[32...R4xf5∓ -0.95/23 33.Nd2 Kh7 *(33...Bxf3 34.Nxf3 Rxf3+ 35.Ke1∓)*]
33.Ng3=
[Reject 33.Ke1 Rh4 *(33...Rxf3 34.Ng3=)* 34.Rb4 Rxh2∓ *(34...Rxf3?* loses. *35.Nf6+* Discovered Attack *Rxf6 36.Rxh4+-)*]
33...Rxf3+ 34.Ke1 Rf7 35.Rxe5 Rf2 36.Re2 Rxe2+ 37.Kxe2 Endgame. KRB-KRN **37...g6** 0.44/20
[37...h5= 0.01/21 might be stronger.]
38.Rb4 0.01/19
[38.c4± 0.44/20]
38...Kg7 39.Rc4 Bd5 40.Rc5 Be6 41.Ke3 Bg4 42.Ne4 Bf5 43.Ng3 -0.01/20 White is more active.
[43.Nc3± 0.69/21]
43...Be6 0.63/20
[43...Bg4= -0.01/20]
44.c4 g5 45.d4 Bg4 46.d5 h5? 3.01/21
[46...Bf3± 0.73/20 was necessary.]
47.Ne4+- Re7 ...Bg4-f5 would now be deadly. **48.Kd4 Kg6 49.d6?** 1.27/21
[49.Rc6++- 3.79/22 and the rest is easy. Kf7 50.Nxg5+ Ke8 51.Ne6]
49...cxd6± 50.Rxg5+ Kh6 51.Rd5 Bf3 52.Rxd6+ Kg7 53.Ng3 Rf7 Repels Ng3-f5+ **54.Ke3** 0.54/24
[White should try 54.Ke5± 1.17/19]
54...h4± 55.Ne4 0.19/19
[55.Ne2± 0.59/21 is more appropriate.]
55...Bxe4!= 56.Kxe4 Black must now prevent h2-h3. KR-KR **56...Rf2 57.h3 Rh2?** 5.47/28
[57...Rc2= 0.03/26 and Black has nothing to worry.]
58.Rd3+- Kf6 59.Kd5 Rg2 60.Rd4 Kg5 61.c5 Threatens to win with c5-c6. **61...Rg3 62.c6** White threatens c6-c7 and mate. **62...Rc3 63.Rc4 Rxh3 64.c7**

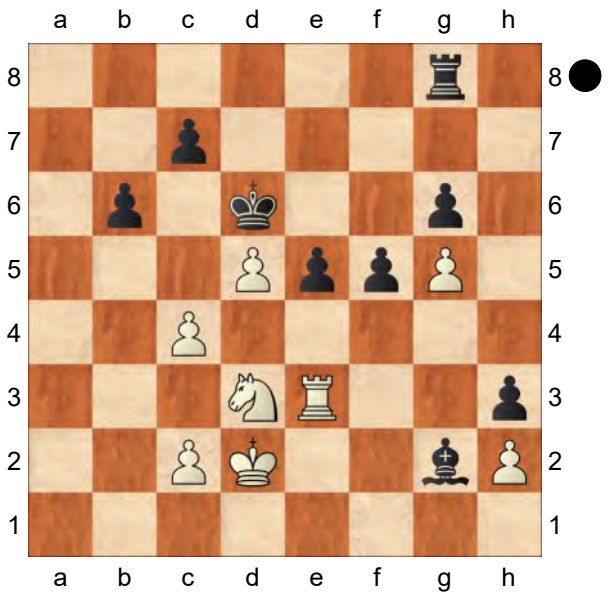
Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.45
1-0

C28
□ **Martinez Alcantara,Jose Eduardo 2612**
■ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi 2722**
Chess.com Classic Div 2 L rapid (2.1)
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Nge2 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Be6 8.Bxd5 Bxd5 9.f4 f6 10.f5 -0.75/21
[10.fxe5= 0.08/26 keeps the balance. Nxe5 11.d4 *(11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.Nf4 Qd7 13.c3 Bd6 14.d4 0-0-0 15.Qb3 Ng6 16.Ne6 Rde8 17.d5 Nf8 18.Nd4 Ng6 19.Ne6 Nf8 20.Nd4 Ng6 21.Ne6* Andreikin,D (2724)-Giri,A (2771) Belgrade FIDE GP 2 KO 2022 (1.3) ½-½ *)*]
10...Bxc3N
[10...Bf7 11.Be3 Qd7 12.Ne4 0-0-0 13.a3 Be7 14.b4 g6 15.N2g3 Nd4 16.fxg6 Bxg6 17.Nxf6 Qc6 18.Bxd4 Rxd4 19.Nfe4 h5 20.Qe2 Qe6 21.Qf3 Rf8 22.Qxf8+ Bxf8 23.Rxf8+ Rd8 24.Raf1 b6 25.Rxd8+ Shevtchenko,O (2054)-Pap,G (2429) Titled Tue 16th May Early 2023 (8) 0-1]
11.bxc3 Black is slightly better. **11...Qd7 12.Ng3 0-0-0 13.Be3** -1.11/20
[White should play 13.Qg4!∓ -0.48/17]
13...Ne7!∓ 14.Qe2 b6 15.a4 h5!↑ Threatens to win with ...h5-h4. Black has the initiative. **16.a5** -1.70/22
[16.h4!∓ -0.53/20]
16...h4-+ Deflection **17.Ne4 Nxf5 18.axb6 axb6**
[18...cxb6?! 19.Bf2=]
19.Ra7 -2.34/20
[19.Bxb6∓ -1.18/19 might work better. cxb6 20.Rfb1]
19...Nxe3! 20.Qxe3 h3 aiming for ... h3xg2. **21.g3** -3.73/22
[21.c4 -2.40/18 was necessary. Bc6 22.g3]
21...Bc6 22.c4 Qd4 23.Qxd4 Rxd4 24.Nf2 Rdd8 25.Re1 Kd7 26.Kf1 Ra8 27.Rxa8 Rxa8 Endgame. KRB-KRN **28.Ke2 Bg2 29.Kd2 Ke6 30.g4 g6** -1.43/22
[30...Rd8-+ -1.94/23 31.Nd1 Kf7]
31.Re3∓ Rh8 32.d4 -2.12/20
[32.Rg3∓ -1.20/22]
32...Rd8-+ 33.d5+ Kd6! 34.g5



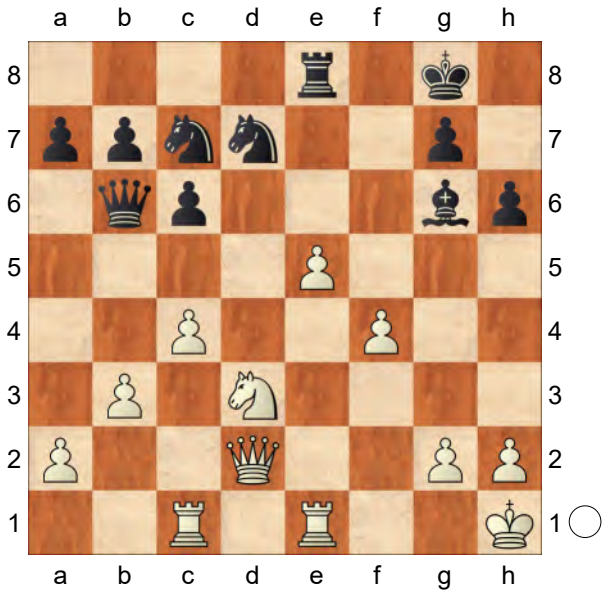
f5
[34...fxg5 35.Nxh3 Kc5 36.Nxg5 Kxc4 37.Rc3+ Kb4 *(37...Kxd5? 38.Rd3+* Skewer *Kc4 39.Rxd8+-)* 38.Rxc7 Bxd5 *(38...Rxd5+ 39.Kc1∓)* 39.Ke3∓]
35.Nd3 Re8 And now ...Bg2-f1 would win. **36.Nf4** -2.82/20
[36.Ke1 -1.88/20 is a better defense.]
36...Be4 37.Ne2 Bg2 38.Nf4 Rg8 39.Nd3



e4 40.Nf4 Ke5 41.Ne6 -6.28/21
[41.Nd3+ -1.93/19 Kd4 42.Nf4]
41...f4 42.Rb3 Bf1 43.Nxc7 e3+ 44.Ke1 Bxc4 45.Rb4 b5 ...f4-f3 would now be deadly. Deflection
[45...Bxd5 46.Rb5 Rd8 47.c4∓]
46.Nxb5 Bxd5 -8.86/20
[⌓46...f3 -#20/18 47.Rxc4 Ra8 48.Nc3 Ra1+ 49.Nd1 e2 Pin *(49...Kxd5? 50.Rc8-+)* 50.Kd2 exd1Q+ *(50...exd1R+? 51.Ke3-+)* 51.Kc3 Kxd5 *(51...f2* leads to mate. *52.Kb4 Rb1+ 53.Ka3 f1Q 54.Rb4 Qa6+ 55.Ra4 Qc1+* Deflection, Double Attack *56.Ka2 Qxa4#)* 52.Kb4 Rb1+ 53.Ka5 Qd2+ *(53...Kxc4?* gets mated. *54.c3 Qd8+ 55.Ka6 Qb6#)* 54.c3 Kxc4 55.Ka6 Qa2#]
47.Nc3 Black is clearly winning. **47...Bc6 48.Rc4 Bf3** ...Rg8-d8 is the strong threat. **49.Rc7 Ra8**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.95/ Black=0.31
0-1

C24
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2788**
■ **Kamsky,Gata** **2623**
Titled Tuesday intern op 16th Jan Late blitz (6)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
Bruzon Batista,L: 'Inf 98/(219)' **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 dxe4 8.Nxe5** White is slightly better. **8...0-0 9.Nxf7 Rxf7 10.dxe4 Qe7 11.Bxf7+ Kxf7 12.f3 Be6 13.Nc3 Nbd7 14.0-0N Nb6 15.b3 Qc5+ 16.Kh1 Kg8 17.Ne2 Nbd7 18.Rad1 Re8 19.Nf4 Bf7 20.Nd3 Qd4 21.Rfe1 h6** 1.14/21
[21...Qb6± 0.67/19 is superior.]
22.c3 0.74/22
[⌓22.e5 1.14/21 Nh5 23.Qa5]
22...Qb6± 23.e5↑ Keeping Black busy.
23...Nd5 24.c4 Nc7 25.f4 0.61/21
[25.Qe2± 1.04/20]
25...Bh5± 26.Rc1 Bg6 1.14/23
[26...Qd4± 0.65/20]



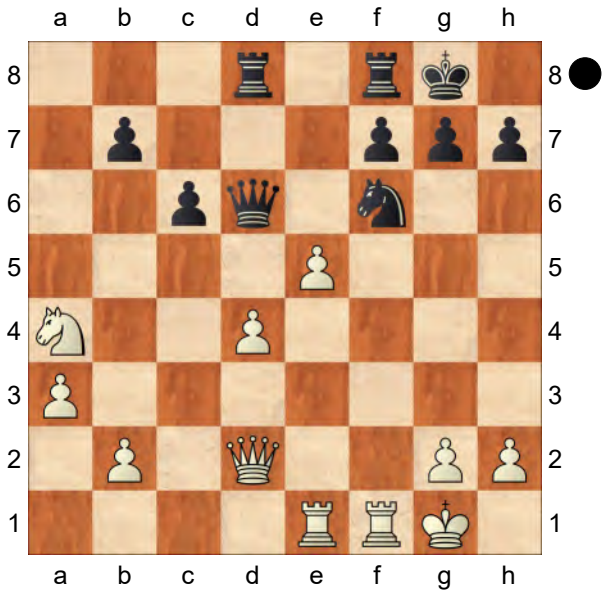
White leaves nothing to chance now.
27.Nf2!± Nc5 1.74/22
[27...Ne6± 0.88/21]

28.g4+- Bf7 29.f5 Repels Nc5-e6 **29...N7a6** 2.82/20
[⌓29...Rf8 2.00/20 30.Rcd1 a5]
30.e6 Nxe6 31.fxe6 Rxe6 4.48/21
[⌓31...Bxe6 2.90/19 32.g5 Rd8]
32.Rxe6 Bxe6 33.Re1 Bf7 34.Kg2 Qc7 35.Qd4 Inhibits Na6-c5. **35...b6 36.Rd1 Kh7 37.Nd3 c5 38.Qe3 Bg6 39.Nf4 Nb4 40.Nxg6** White is clearly winning. **40...Qc6+ 41.Qf3 Qxg6 42.Qf5 Nc6** 16.15/25
[⌓42...Nxa2 4.43/23 43.Qxg6+ Kxg6]
43.Qxg6+ Remove Defender.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.30
1-0

C24

□ **Nakamura,Hikaru 2788**
■ **Paravyan,David 2612**
Titled Tuesday intern op 13th Feb Late blitz (10)
[Kitty Kat]

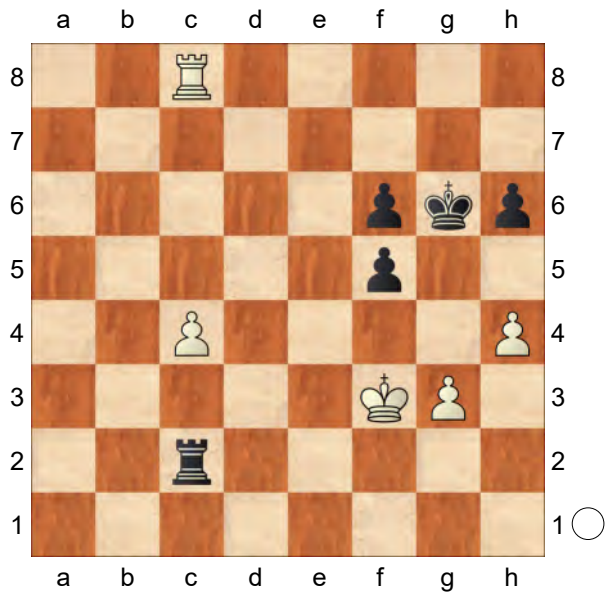
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 a5 ...a5-a4 is the strong threat. **8.a3**
[8.Nxe5? a4 *(8...dxe4? 9.Nxf7 Qe7 10.Nxh8+-)* 9.Bc4 0-0-+ *(9...dxc4? 10.Nxc4 b5 11.Ne3-+)*]
8...a4 9.Ba2 0-0 10.Nxe5 Qe7 11.f4 dxe4 12.Nc3N
[12.0-0 exd3 13.cxd3 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6:-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.]
12...exd3 13.cxd3
[13.0-0-0 keeps more tension. dxc2 14.Qxc2 Nbd7 15.Rhe1]
13...Be6 14.Bxe6 Qxe6 15.0-0 Nbd7 16.Rae1 Qd6 17.d4 Rad8 0.26/19
[Black should try 17...Rfd8∓ -0.33/18]
18.Nxa4= Nxe5 19.fxe5



Discovered Attack **19...Qxd4+ 20.Qxd4 Rxd4 21.exf6 Rxa4** Endgame. KRR-KRR **22.Re7 b5 23.Rc1 Rc4 24.Rxc4 bxc4±** KR-KR **25.Rb7 gxf6 26.Kf2 Ra8 27.Rb6 c5 28.Rb5 c3** Deflection **29.bxc3 Rxa3 30.Rxc5 Ra2+ 31.Kf3 Rc2 32.h4 f5 33.Rc6 Kg7 34.c4 f6 35.g3 Kg6 36.Rc8 Rc1** 0.50/22
[36...Kf7= 0.12/24 was preferrable.]
37.Rc7 0.01/23
[37.c5± 0.50/22 feels stronger.]
37...h6 38.Rc8 Rc2 0.80/23
[38...Kh5= 0.16/22 keeps the balance.]

(Diagram)

39.c5!± Rc3+ 40.Kf4 Rc4+ 41.Ke3 f4+ 42.Kd3 0.01/25
[42.gxf4± 0.92/26 Black must now prevent Ke3-d3. Kf7 43.c6]
42...f3= ...Rc4-e4! would now be deadly.
43.Ke3
[43.Kxc4? is the wrong capture. f2 44.Kb5 *(44.h5+? Kxh5 45.Kb5 f1Q+-+)* 44...f1Q+-+ *(44...f1B+?*



loses. *45.Kb6+-)*]

43...Rc3+ 44.Kf2 Kf5 45.c6

[45.Rg8 simplifies h5 46.Rg7 Rxc5 47.Kxf3 Rc2 48.Rh7]

45...Kg4 Threatens to win with ...Rc3-c2+. **46.Rg8+ Kf5 47.Rc8**

[47.h5 simplifies Rxc6 48.Kxf3 Rc3+ 49.Kg2]

47...Kg4 And now ...Rc3-c2+ would win. **48.Rg8+ Kf5 49.h5 Rxc6 50.Kxf3 Rc3+ 51.Kg2 Rc1 52.Rg6 Ra1 53.Kh2 Rb1 54.Kg2 Ra1 55.Rxh6 Kg5 56.Rh8 f5 57.h6 Kg6 58.Kf3 Ra4 59.Rf8 Kxh6 60.Rxf5 Kg7 61.Rf4 Rxf4+** The position is equal. **62.gxf4** KP-K

[62.Kxf4!? Kf6□ 63.Kg4=]

62...Kf6 63.Ke4 Ke6 64.f5+ Kf6 65.Kf4 Kf7 66.Ke5 Ke7 67.f6+ Kf7 68.Kf5 Kf8

Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)

½-½

C27

□ **Wei,Yi** **2740**

■ **Warmerdam,Max** **2625**

Tata Steel-A 86th (11) 26.01.2024

[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4 Although I'm recommending 4...0-0 as an ambitious way of dealing with the idea of 5 f4, those who wish to really discourage f2-f4 can also consider another solution: **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 c6 5.f4**

[5.Nf3 d6 6.h3 0-0 7.0-0 Re8 8.Ne2 Nbd7 9.Ng3 Nf8 10.c3 Bb6 11.Bb3 Be6 12.a4 d5 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.d4 Ng6 16.a5 Bc7 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Nd4 Rad8 19.f4 Qg6 Rapport,R (2731)-Kramnik,V (2777) Tata Steel-A 81st 2019 (6) ½-½]

5...d5

[5...exf4 6.e5 d5 7.exf6 Qxf6 8.Qe2+ Kd8 9.Bxd5 cxd5 10.Qf3 Bxg1 11.Qxd5+ Bd7 12.Rxg1 Re8+ 13.Kd1 Re5 14.Qxb7 Qh4 15.Ne4 Qxh2 16.Re1 Bc6 17.Qxf7 Bxe4 18.Bxf4 Bf3+ 19.gxf3 Rxe1+ 20.Kxe1 Najer,E (2666)-Bulmaga,I (2438) 23rd ch-EUR Indiv 2023 (6.54) 1-0]

6.exd5 Ng4 7.Nf3N

[7.Ne4 Bxg1 8.dxc6 Nxc6 9.Rxg1 Qh4+ 10.g3 Qxh2 11.Kf1 f5 Second Solution,A-Black Plays C6 2008]

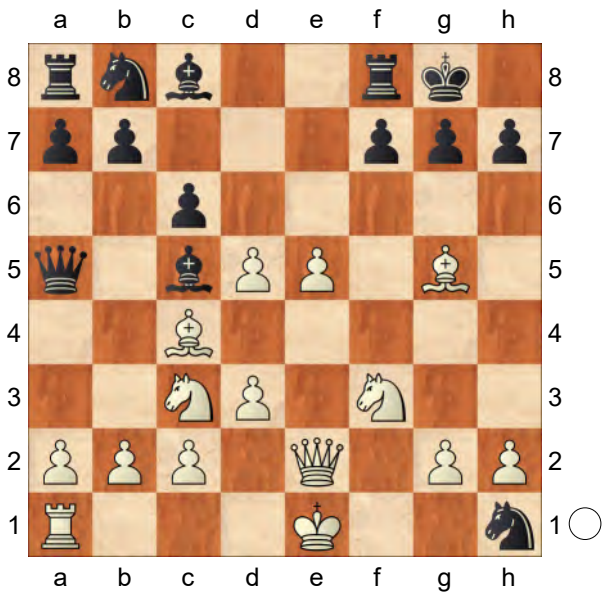
7...0-0 8.fxe5 The position is equal.

8...Nf2

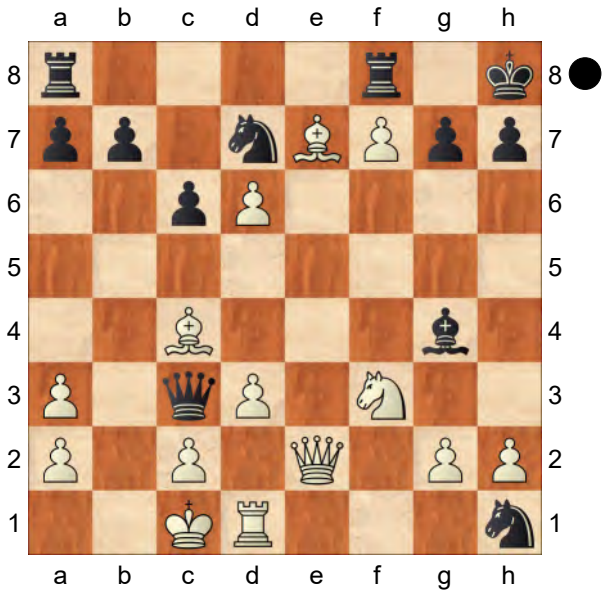
[8...cxd5 simplifies 9.d4 dxc4 10.dxc5 Qxd1+ 11.Nxd1 f6]

9.Qe2 Nxh1 10.Bg5 Qa5

(Diagram)



aiming for ...c6xd5. **11.d6** d3-d4 would now be deadly. **11...Bg4 12.Be7 Nd7** White must now prevent ...Bg4xf3. **13.e6 Ba3! 14.exf7+ Kh8!**
[14...Rxf7? 15.Bxf7+ Kxf7 16.Ng5++-]
15.0-0-0↑ Black is under pressure. The board is on fire. **15...Qxc3 16.bxa3**
[16.Rxh1? Qxb2+ 17.Kd2 Bb4+ 18.Ke3 Ne5-+]



Hoping for Kc1-b1. Active counter play!
16...Bxf3 1.55/24
[16...a5!= 0.12/22]
17.gxf3± Kc1-b1 is the strong threat.
[17.Qxf3 Ne5 18.Qf4 Ng6]
17...Ne5? 3.91/23 Loses the game.
[17...Qxa3+± 1.40/19 18.Kb1 Qb4+ 19.Bb3 Rxf7]
18.Kb1+-
[18.Rxh1 Qa1+ *(18...Qxa3+ 19.Kb1=)* 19.Kd2 Nxc4+ *(19...Qxh1? 20.Qxe5 Qg2+ 21.Kc3+-)* 20.dxc4 Qxh1=]
[18.Bxf8 Rxf8 *(18...Qxa3+? 19.Kb1+-)* 19.Kb1 Qd4+-]
18...Qd4
[Reject 18...Nxc4 19.dxc4+-]
19.Rxh1
[19.Bxf8 Rxf8 20.f4 *(20.Rxh1 Qxd6 21.Bb3 Nxf7±)* 20...Qxf4+-]
19...Nxc4 20.dxc4 Qb6+ White is clearly winning. **21.Kc1 Rxf7 22.Rd1 Rff8 23.d7 Rg8 24.Qe5** Black is weak on the dark squares
[Less strong is 24.d8R Rgxd8 25.Bxd8 Rxd8±]
24...Rad8 25.f4 c5 26.Bxd8 Qxd8 27.Qxc5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.49
1-0

C24
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2725**
■ **Kollars,Dmitrij** **2632**
Titled Tuesday intern op 23rd Jan Late blitz (10)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Bb3 a5N
[4...d5
A) 5.Nf3 Bd6 6.Nc3 dxe4 7.Ng5 *(7.Nxe4 Nxe4 8.dxe4 Bg4 9.h3*

Bh5 10.Bg5 f6 11.Be3 Na6 12.Qe2 Qe7 13.0-0-0 Nc5 14.Bxc5 Bxc5 15.g4 Bf7 16.Bxf7+ Qxf7 17.Kb1 0-0 18.h4 b5 19.h5 Rad8 20.Nh4 a5 21.Nf5 Bb6 Loheac Amoun,F-7. ♘f4 ♗d6 8. ♘gh5 19/632 Sandefjord 1975 ½-½ *)* 7...Bg4 8.Bxf7+ Ke7 9.f3 exf3 10.gxf3 Bf5 11.Bb3 Rf8 12.Qe2 Kd7 13.Nf7 Qe7 14.Nxd6 Qxd6 15.Rg1 Bg6 16.Rg5 Na6 17.Be3 Nh5 18.0-0-0 Nf4 19.Bxf4 exf4 Kiffmeyer,C (2320)-Pachman,L (2485) Bundesliga 1976/77 North (4.1) ½-½;

B) 5.exd5 cxd5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.0-0 Ng8 10.Bd2 Qd7 11.d4 exd4 12.Nb5 Nf6 13.Nbxd4 0-0 14.Re1 Bd6 15.Bc3 Bg4 16.Nb5 Be7 17.h3 Bh5 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Qxd5 Paravyan,D (2620)-Deac,B (2680) Titled Tuesday intern op 24th Sep Late blitz 2024 (10) 0-1]

5.Nc3 Bb4 ...a5-a4 is the strong threat. **6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 a4 8.Ba2** The position is equal. **8...d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Ne2 0-0 11.0-0 Bg4** Threatens to win with ...Nd5xc3. **12.Bd2 Nd7 13.Qe1 Re8 14.Ng3 Nc5** 1.00/18

[14...Qc7= 0.08/21]

(Diagram)

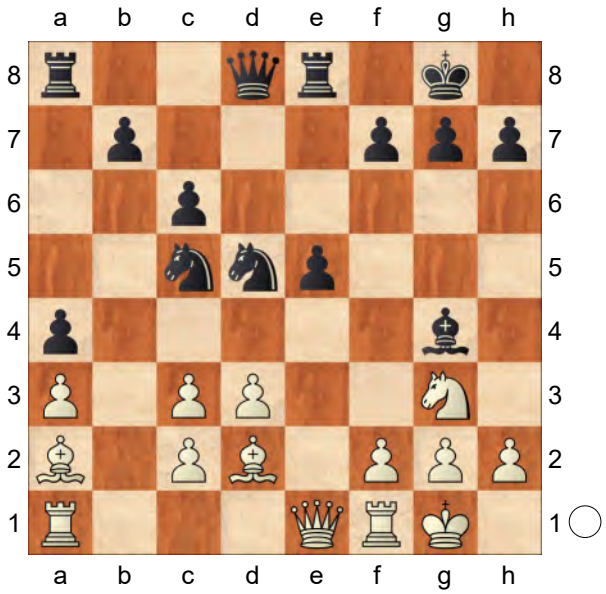
15.f3!± Bd7 16.Qf2 Ne6 17.Rfe1 Qc7 18.Ne4 Kh8 1.36/23

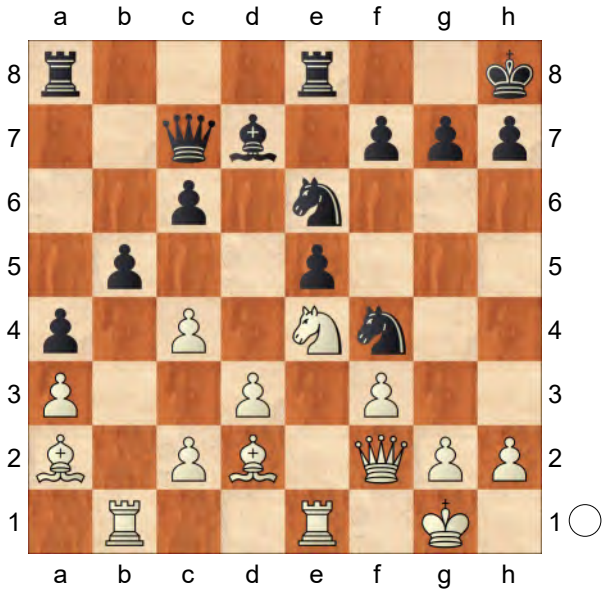
[Black should try 18...b6 0.72/19]

19.Rab1 b5 20.c4 Ndf4 2.20/18

[20...bxc4± 1.49/23 21.dxc4 *(21.Bxc4 Nd4±)* 21...Ndf4]

(Diagram)





21.cxb5? 0.06/23

[White must play 21.c5!+- 2.20/18]

21...cxb5= 22.Bb4 -0.53/19

[22.Bxf4= 0.06/23 Nxf4 23.Ng5 *(23.Bxf7 Rec8=)*]

22...Ra6!∓ 23.Kh1 Bc8 0.25/20

[Better is 23...Rc6∓ -0.59/22 24.Bxe6 Bxe6]

24.g3↑ White has good play. **24...Ng6** 0.91/20

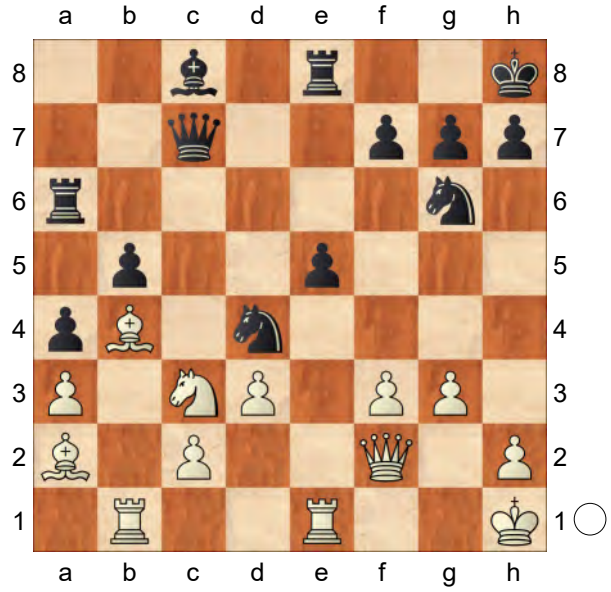
[24...Nh3= 0.28/21 keeps the balance. 25.Qf1 Neg5]

25.Nc3 -0.07/20 White is more active.

[25.c4± 0.91/20 bxc4 26.Bxc4 *(26.dxc4 f5±)*]

25...Nd4 3.65/19

[25...Bd7!= -0.07/20 and Black stays safe.]



26.Qxd4!+- Pin **26...Bb7**

[26...Rc6 27.Nxb5]

27.Qf2

[27.Nxb5 Bxf3+ 28.Kg1 Qxc2+-]

27...Rc6 28.Nxb5 Qd7 29.Kg1 Nf4 30.Qf1 0.14/19

[30.gxf4+- 5.41/20 Rg6+ 31.Kh1]

30...Rg6 5.22/18

[30...Nh3+!= 0.14/19 31.Kh1 Rxc2]

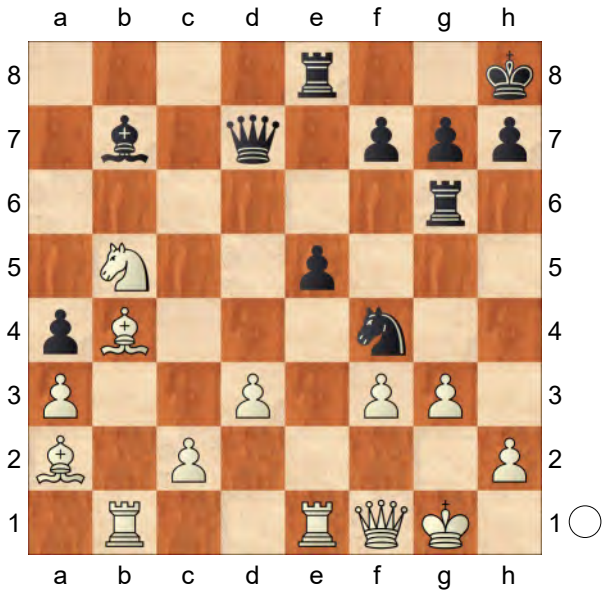
(Diagram)

31.Nd6! White is clearly winning.

31...Rxd6 32.Bxd6

[Much less strong is 32.gxf4 Rg6+ 33.Kh1 Qg4+- *(33...exf4? too greedy. 34.Rxe8+ Qxe8 35.d4+-)*]

32...Qxd6 33.Rxb7 Qc6 34.Rxf7 Qxc2 35.gxf4 Qxa2 36.Rf5 Qxa3 37.Rfxe5 Rf8 38.Re8



Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/ Black=0.78

1-0

C24

□ **Rapport,Richard** **2731**

■ **Abasov,Nijat Azad** **2641**

Gashimov Memorial Rapid 9th (2)

[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 a5 Hoping for ...a5-a4. **6.a4 Bb4+ 7.c3 Bd6 8.exd5** The position is equal. **8...cxd5 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Na3 h6 11.Bh4 Nbd7 12.Nb5 Bb8 13.d4 e4 14.Nd2 0-0 15.Nf1 Re8N**

[15...Bf4 16.h3 Re8 17.g3 Bb8 18.g4 Nf8 19.Ne3 Ng6 Firouzja,A (2804)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2773) Bucuresti 153/(117) 2022 20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Bxd5 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Qg5 23.c4 Bf4 24.Qb3 h5 25.Ne3 Qh4 26.gxh5 Qxh5 27.Qd1 Qh6 28.Nf5 Qh7 29.Qg4 Ra6 30.Kd1 Rf6 31.Re1 Nf8 32.Ne3 Bb8 33.Qe2 Qh4 34.Rf1 Rf3 Firouzja,A (2804)-

Nepomniachtchi,I (2773) Bucharest Superbet Classic 2nd 2022 (2) 0-1]

16.Ne3 g5 17.Bg3 Bf4! 18.Nd6 Bxd6 19.Bxd6 Nf8 20.Be5 Threatens to win with Be5xf6. This pair of bishops is nice. **20...N6d7 21.h4** Strongly threatening Qd1-h5. **21...Nxe5 22.dxe5** aiming for Qd1-h5. **22...gxh4**

[22...Ng6 simplifies 23.Bxd5 Bxd5 24.Qxd5 Qxd5 25.Nxd5 Rxe5 26.Nf6+ Kg7]

23.Qh5 Qg5 24.Rxh4 Ng6↑ Black has some pressure. **25.Rh2** -1.49/25

[25.Qxh6? Qxh4 26.Qxh4 Nxh4-+]

[25.Qxg5= -0.13/25 was the only way to keep the balance. hxg5 26.Rh5]

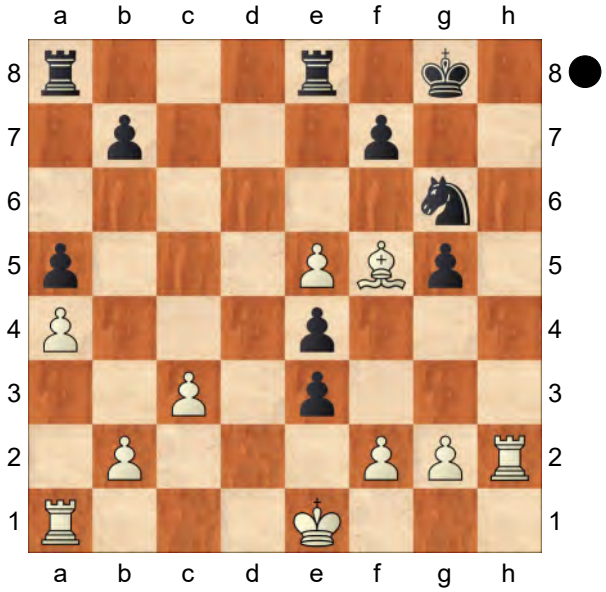
25...d4!∓ Discovered Attack **26.Bxe6**

[26.cxd4? Qxh5 *(26...Bxb3? 27.Qg4-+)* 27.Rxh5 Bxb3-+]

26...dxe3 27.Qxg5

[27.Qxh6? Qxh6 *(27...Qxe5 28.Qh7+ Kf8 29.Qxf7#)* 28.Bxf7+ Kxf7-+]

27...hxg5 28.Bf5

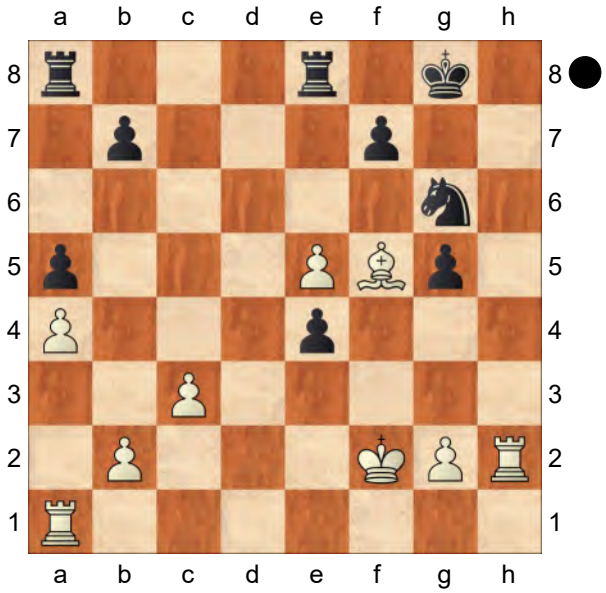


exf2+!

[28...Nxe5?! 29.fxe3 Nd3+ 30.Ke2=]

[28...Rxe5?! 29.Bxg6 fxg6 *(29...exf2+ 30.Kxf2 fxg6 31.Rah1=)* 30.Rd1= *(30.fxe3 Rd5=)*]

29.Kxf2



e3+!

[29...Nxe5 30.Rh5±]

[29...Rxe5 30.Bxg6 fxg6 31.Rah1±]

30.Kg3? -3.10/20 This move loses the game for White.

[30.Kxe3? Rxe5+ 31.Kd3 Rxf5-+]

[30.Ke1∓ -1.48/23]

30...Nh4-+

[30...Nxe5 31.Re1=]

[30...Rxe5 31.Bxg6 fxg6 32.Rah1∓]

31.Bc2 Rad8

[Don't do 31...Rxe5 32.Rhh1]

32.Rd1 e2 33.Re1 Rd2

[Resist 33...Rxe5 34.Kf2 Rd2 35.Bb1-+]

34.Bb1 Rxb2 35.Kf2 Rxe5 36.g3 -4.72/23

[⌓36.Bd3 -3.31/19]

36...Nf5 Black is clearly winning. **37.Bd3 Ne3 38.Kf3** Prevents Ne3-g4. **38...Nd5 39.Bxe2 Re3+ 40.Kg4 Nxc3 41.Bc4 Rxe1**

[41...Rxh2 42.Rxe3 Nxa4 43.Re7∓]

42.Rxb2 Re4+

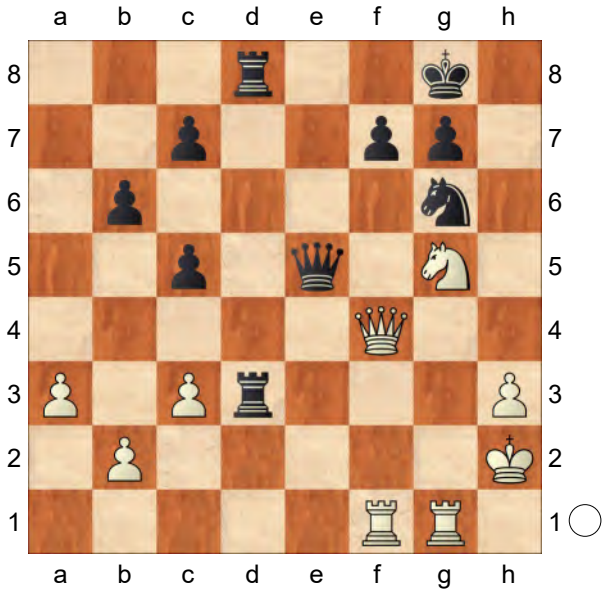
Weighted Error Value: White=0.28

(precise) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
0-1

C54

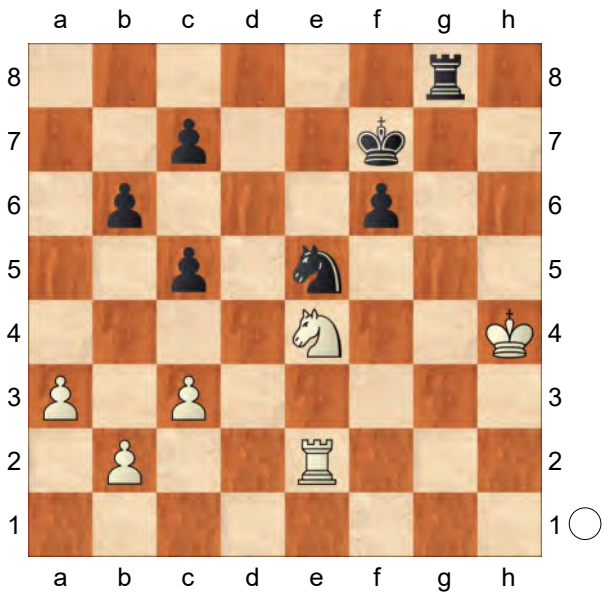
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2725**
■ **Bok,Benjamin** **2620**
Chessable Masters Div 2 Lose rapid (6.1)
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bc5N
[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 19.Raxd1 Deschamps,Q (2632)-Lopez Ramirez,D (2436) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (8) 1-0 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 axb4 21.Re7 Rc8 22.a5 Kf8 23.Re4 Na8 24.Rd7 Re8 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.Rxg7 h5 Chigaev,M (2632)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2737) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Feb Late blitz 2023 (5) 0-1]
5.0-0 d6 6.c3 a5 is the new trend. ist der neue Trend. **7.Re1 0-0 8.Nbd2 Be6** The position is equal. **9.Bb3 Bxb3 10.Nxb3 a4 11.Nxc5 dxc5 12.Be3N**
[Vorgänger: 12.Bg5 h6 13.Be3 Qe7 14.Nh4 Threatens to win with Nh4-f5. b6 15.Nf5 Qe6 16.Qf3 Be3xh6! would now be deadly. Ne7 17.d4 cxd4 18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.cxd4 exd4 20.Bxd4 Fang,Y (2420)-Zhou,W (2606) CHN-chT China 2017 (10.3) ½-½]
12...b6 13.Qc2 Qe7 14.Rad1 Rfd8 15.h3 h6 16.Kh2 Qe6 17.a3 Rd7 18.g4 Nh7 19.Rg1 Rad8 0.04/19
[19...g5∓ -0.61/22]
20.g5 -0.82/26
[20.Qxa4= 0.04/19 Rxd3 21.Rxd3 Rxd3 22.Rd1 Rxd1 23.Qxd1]
20...hxg5 21.Bxg5 Nxg5 22.Nxg5 -1.64/20 White is on the road to losing.
[Only move: 22.Rxg5∓ -0.65/23 g6 23.Qxa4]
22...Qf6-+ 23.Qxa4 -2.84/21
[23.Rg3 -1.88/18 might work better.]
23...Rxd3 24.Rdf1 -3.84/20
[⌓24.Rxd3 -2.51/22 Rxd3 25.c4 *(25.Kh1? Rd2-+)*]
24...Ne7 25.f4 exf4 26.e5 Qxe5 27.Qxf4 Ng6



Pin **28.Qxe5 Nxe5 29.Rf5** -4.49/22
[⌓29.Rg2 -3.14/20]
29...f6
[29...Rd2+? 30.Rg2∓]
30.Ne6 R8d7 31.Rgf1 Repels Ne5-f3+ **31...Rd2+ 32.R5f2 Kf7 33.Ng5+ Ke7 34.Ne4 Rxf2+ 35.Rxf2** Endgame. KRN-KRN **35...Rd3 36.Re2 Kf7 37.Nf2 Rd7 38.Kg3 g5 39.h4 gxh4+ 40.Kxh4 Rd8 41.Ne4 Rg8**

(Diagram)

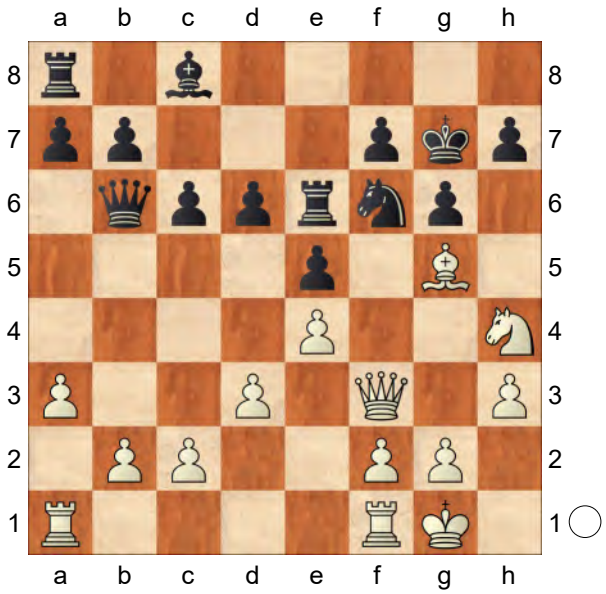


Hoping for ...Ne5-f3+. **42.Kh3** -4.13/23
[⌓42.Nd2 -2.92/22]
42...Nf3 43.Re3 Ng5+ 44.Nxg5+ Rxg5 KR-KR **45.b4** -4.29/23
[⌓45.a4 -2.90/20 Rh5+ 46.Kg3]
45...Re5 46.Rxe5 -10.83/21
[46.Rd3 -3.21/18]
46...fxe5 Black is clearly winning.
47.bxc5 K3P-K3P **47...b5**
[And not 47...bxc5 48.Kg4 Ke6 49.c4=]
48.Kg4 Ke6 49.c6 Kd6 50.Kf3 Kxc6 51.Ke4 Kd6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.62/ Black=0.21 (precise)
0-1

C27

□ **Amin,Bassem** **2694**
■ **Yu,Yangyi** **2735**
Biel 56th (7) 26.07.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.d3 c6 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3! outshines the older 7.Bg5.erfolgreicher als das alte 7.Lg5.
[7.a4 a5 8.Kh1 Na6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Ne2 Qe8 13.c3 Ba7 14.Bxf6 Rxf6 15.Ng3 Rf7 16.Qe2 Qe7 17.Nd2 Raf8 18.f3 d5 19.Rfe1 Qh4 20.Nb3 Bb6 21.Nf1 Nb8 Salman,F (2752)-Fuentes,M (2566) Chicago op 19th 2010 (9) 1-0]
7...Nbd7N
[7...Re8 8.Ne2 Nbd7 9.Ng3 Nf8 10.c3 Bb6 11.Bb3 Be6 12.a4 d5 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.d4 Ng6 16.a5 Bc7 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Nd4 Rad8 19.f4 Qg6 20.Ngf5 Nd7 21.a6 Nc5 22.axb7 Salman,F (2731)-Hantel,T (2777) ARG I15 corr 2001 (6) ½-½]
8.a3 Bb6 9.Ba2 Re8 10.Re1N
[Vorgänger: 10.Nh4 Nf8 11.Qf3! g6 0.43/22 *(11...Ng6= 0.00/24* should be considered. *12.Bg5 Be6)* 12.Bg5± Kg7 13.Na4! Strongly threatening Na4xb6. Ne6? 2.24/20 *(13...Bc7± 0.47/24)* 14.Bxe6+- Rxe6 15.Nxb6 Qxb6

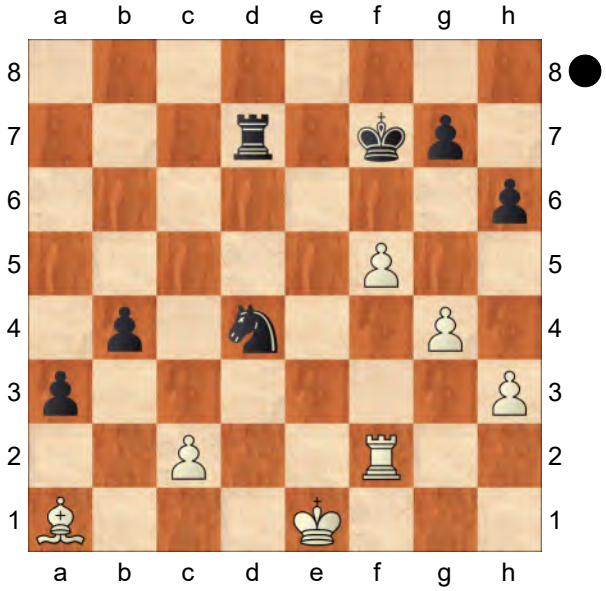


16.Rab1 0.79/18 Moral Garcia,S (2264)-Merario Alarcon,A (2395) ESP-ch 85th Linares 2020 (6) ½-½

(16.Nf5+!+- 2.10/17 Kg8 17.Rab1)]
10...Nf8 11.Be3 Be6 12.d4 Bxa2 13.Rxa2 exd4 The position is equal. **14.Bxd4 Ba5 15.b4 Bb6 16.Ra1 Ne6 17.Bxb6 axb6 18.a4 Qc7 19.Qd3 Rad8 20.Rad1 Nf4 21.Qd2 Ne6 22.Qd3 Nf4 23.Qd2 Ne6 24.Qd3 Nf4** An uneventful encounter.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
½-½

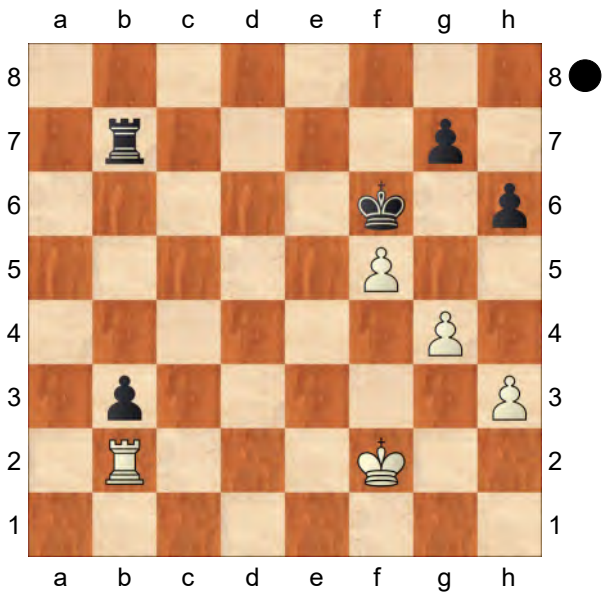
C28
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2723**
■ **Murzin,Volodar** **2627**
Wch Rapid Samarkand (12) 28.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 Bxc3 7.bxc3 h6 8.Re1 d6 9.h3 Be6 10.Bb3 Ne7 11.d4N
[11.Nh4 c5 12.Qf3 Kh7 13.g4 Nfg8 14.g5 c4 15.dxc4 Rc8 16.Nf5 Qd7 17.c5 dxc5 18.Rd1 Qc6 19.Nxe7 Nxe7 20.gxh6 c4 21.hxg7 Kxg7 22.Ba3 Ng6 23.Bxf8+ Rxf8 24.h4 Nxh4 25.Qg3+ Ng6 10.♗a3 b6 11.ba5 ♘h5 1525 (2752)-Osnos,V (2736) Belgrade (match) 1985 0-1 26.f3 cxb3 27.axb3 Rh8 28.c4 Qc5+ 29.Kf1 Kf6 30.Qg1 Bh3+ 31.Ke2 Nf4+ 32.Kd2 Rd8+ Karjakin,S (2752)-Nakamura,H (2736) chess24.com (Int.-rapid) 146/99 2020 0-1]
11...Ng6 White is slightly better. **12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Bxe6 Qxd1 14.Rxd1 fxe6 15.Re1 Rfd8 16.c4 Rd6! 17.Bb2 Rc6 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Bxe5 Nd7 20.Bc3 Rxc4 21.Re3 Nc5 22.Rd1 Nxe4 23.Ba1 Rf8** -0.04/25
[23...Re8∓ -0.46/25]
24.Rd4= Rxd4
[24...Rxc2? perishes. 25.Rdxe4 Rxa2 26.Bd4+-]
25.Bxd4 Endgame. KRB-KRN **25...Nd6**
[25...Nxf2? loses. 26.Rg3 Nxh3+ 27.gxh3+-]
26.Rxe6 Rd8 27.g4 Kf7 28.Re5 b6 29.Kg2 Ne8 30.Rf5+ Kg8 31.Bc3 Rd6 32.Re5 Kf7 33.Bb4 c5 34.Bc3 Rd1 35.Re1 Rd7 36.f4 Nc7 37.Re2 Nd5 38.Be5 Nb4 39.a3 Nc6 Threatens to win with ...Nc6xe5. **40.Bc3 b5 41.f5 b4 42.axb4 cxb4 43.Bb2** -1.73/23
[43.Rd2= -0.28/25 Rxd2+ 44.Bxd2]
43...a5-+ ...a5-a4 is the strong threat. **44.Kf1?** -4.63/24 This move loses the game for White.
[44.c3∓ -1.46/22 is more resistant.]
44...a4 45.Ke1 a3 Black is clearly winning. **46.Ba1 Nd4 47.Rf2**



Nxc2+! 48.Rxc2 KRB-KR **48...b3 49.Rf2 Rb7 50.Bb2 axb2 51.Rxb2** KR-KR **51...Kf6 52.Kf2**

(Diagram)



h5! Deflection **53.gxh5**
[53.Ke3 hxg4]
53...Kxf5 54.h6 gxh6 55.Ke3 Ke5 And now ...h6-h5 would win. **56.h4 h5 57.Kd3 Kf4 58.Kd4 Kg3 59.Ke3 Kxh4** White must now prevent ...Kh4-g3. **60.Kf3 Kg5** ...h5-h4 would now be deadly. **61.Ke4 h4** Strongly threatening ...Kg5-g4. **62.Rg2+ Kh5** (-> ...b3-b2) **63.Rb2 Kg4 64.Rg2+ Kh3**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.53/ Black=0.07 (flawless)
0-1

C24

□ **Santos Latasa,Jaime** **2631**
■ **Paravyan,David** **2608**
CrunchLab Masters Div 3 L rapid (4.2)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
Inf 83/(278) **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 d6 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 Bb6 7.Re1N** Exploring less charted territory. Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.
[7.Bb3 c6 8.Nbd2 Re8 9.Re1 h6 10.h3 Be6 11.Nf1 Nbd7 12.Ng3 d5 13.Bc2 a5 14.Nh2 dxe4 15.dxe4 Bc5 16.Qf3 a4 17.Nf5 Bxf5 18.Qxf5 Nf8 Yu,S (2522)-Sokolov,I (2659) Wijk aan Zee II 83/(278) 2001]
7...Re8 8.h3N
[Vorgänger: 8.Nbd2 Nbd7 9.Bb3 c6 10.Nf1 Nf8 11.Ng3
A) 11...Ng6 12.h3 h6 13.d4 Qc7 14.Bc2 Be6 15.Be3 Rad8 16.Qc1 a6 *(16...Qe7 17.a4 Nd7 18.a5 Bc7 19.dxe5 dxe5 20.Nf5 Qf8 21.b4 a6 22.g3 Kh7 23.h4 Ne7 24.h5 Ng8 25.N3h4 g6 26.hxg6+ fxg6 27.g4 gxf5 28.exf5 Bf7 29.g5 hxg5 30.Bxg5 Ngf6 31.Re3* Prusikin,M (2507)-Gabriel,C (2572) SUI-chT Switzerland 2006 (6.1) 1-0 *Qh8 32.Rh3 Kg7 33.Qe3 Bh5 34.Ng6 Qh7 35.Qg3 Nd5 36.Bxd8 Rxd8 37.Nf4+ Kf8 38.Ne6+ Ke7 39.f6+* Bruce,R (2507)-Schwenk,H (2572) 61/216 Antwerpen 1994 (6.1) 1-0 *)* 17.Nf5 Bxf5 18.exf5 Nf8 19.Bxh6 N8h7 20.dxe5 dxe5 21.Be3 Bxe3 22.Qxe3 Nd5 23.Qe4 Nhf6 24.Qh4 Nf4 25.Re3 N4d5 26.Ree1 E05-E06 Catalan/6 4...Be7-5 Bg2 0-0 6 0-0 dxc4 Intro 1 d4 d5 2 c4 2020;
B) 11...Be6 12.Bc2 -0.31/22 *(*White should play *12.h3*= 0.26/21 *)* 12...h6 0.31/22 *(12...Ng6!∓* -0.31/22 *)* 13.h3 c5 14.Nh4 d5 Grabinsky,A (2338)-Gauri,S (2340) Saint Louis Winter-B 2019 (2) ½-½]
8...Nbd7 9.Nbd2 White has an edge. **9...Nf8 10.Bb3 Ng6 11.d4 h6 12.Bc2 Be6 13.Nf1 exd4 14.cxd4 d5 15.e5 Ne4! 16.Ng3 Nxg3 17.fxg3 c5 18.Be3 Rc8 19.Kh2 cxd4 20.Bxd4 Ne7 21.g4** 0.20/19
[21.Re2± 0.65/19]

21...Nc6= aiming for ...Nc6xd4. **22.Bxb6 Qxb6 23.g5 hxg5 24.Nxg5** Qd1-h5 would now be deadly. **24...Nxe5** Strongly threatening ...Qb6-c7. Decoy **25.Bh7+**

[25.Rxe5 Qd6 26.Qe1 f6-+ *(26...Rxc2 27.Kh1∓)*]

25...Kf8! ...Qb6-c7 is the strong threat.

26.Qa4? -2.53/17

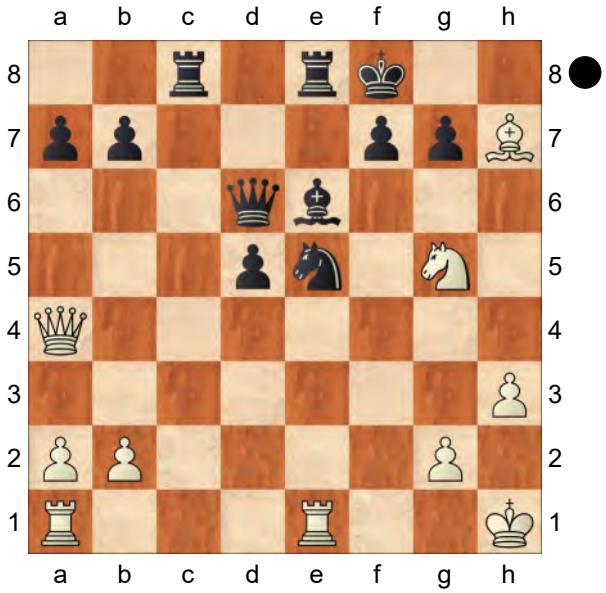
[26.Rxe5? Qd6 27.Nf3 f6-+]

[26.Qh5= 0.02/21 Qd6 *(26...Qxb2 27.Rab1=)* 27.Kh1]

26...Qd6!-+ (-> ...Ne5-f3+)

[26...Qxb2 27.Rab1 Qc3 28.Rbc1±]

27.Kh1



Rc4 28.Qxa7 Rh4? 0.00/21

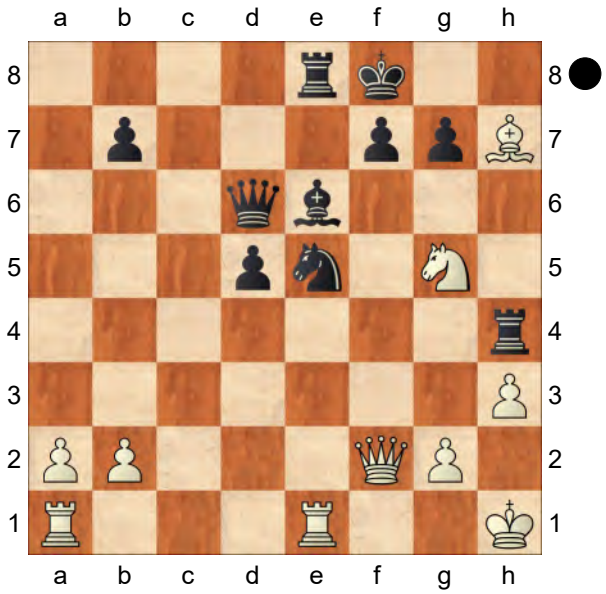
[Better is 28...g6-+ -2.48/18 29.Re2 Kg7]

29.Qf2? -2.82/22

[29.Rxe5= 0.00/21 and White stays safe. Qxe5 30.Qa3+ Re7 31.Qa8+ Re8 32.Qa3+ Re7 33.Qa8+ Re8 34.Qa3+]

(Diagram)

29...Ng4! 30.Qg1 Dodges Qd6-h2+



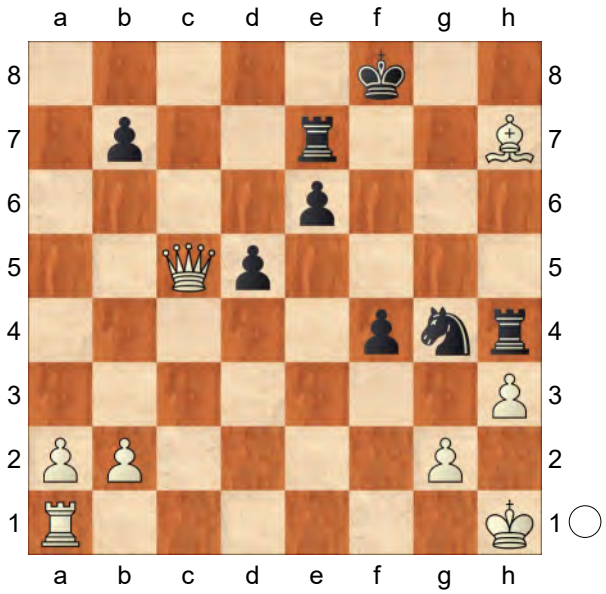
[Wrong is 30.Nxe6+? Rxe6 31.Qg1 Rxh7-+]

30...Qf4?? 5.87/30

[30...g6-+ -2.67/20 and all is fine. Threatens to win with ...Qd6-f4. 31.Bxg6 fxg6 32.Rxe6 Rxe6 33.Nxe6+ Qxe6 34.Qc5+ Kg7]

31.Qc5++- White is clearly winning.

31...Re7 32.Nxe6+ Remove Defender **32...fxe6 33.Rf1** Pin **33...g5 34.Rxf4+ gxf4**



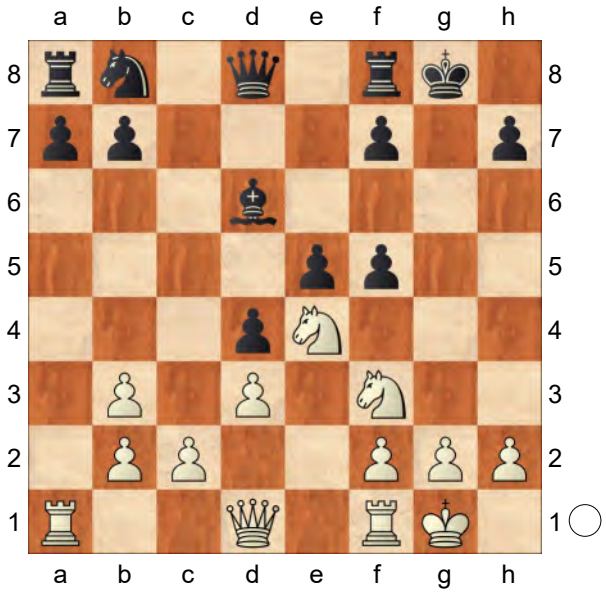
35.Rf1! Ne5

[35...Nf6 36.Bg6]

36.Qd4 Nf7 37.Bg6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/ Black=0.37
1-0

C24
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru 2788**
■ **Kovalev,Vladislav 2582**
Titled Tuesday intern op 19th Dec Early blitz (10)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bd6 6.0-0
[6.Nc3 dxe4 7.Ng5 0-0 8.Ncxe4 Nxe4 *(8...Be7 9.Nxf6+ Bxf6 10.Qh5 Bxg5 11.Bxg5 Qd6 12.0-0 Be6 13.Rfe1 Bxb3 14.axb3 f6 15.Be3 Na6 16.Ra4 Nb4 17.Qg4 Nd5 18.Bd2 c5 19.Qe4 a6 20.c4 Nb6 21.Ra5 Rf7 22.b4 cxb4 23.c5* Kabanov,N (2500)-Kaniansky,M (2205) 26th European Club Cup 2010 (1.6) 1-0 *)* 9.Nxe4 Bf5 10.0-0 Na6 11.Nxd6 Qxd6 12.Qf3 Be6 13.Qg3 Bxb3 14.axb3 Nb4 15.c3 Nxd3 16.Rd1 Rad8 17.Bg5 f6 18.Be3 a6 19.Rd2 Rfe8 20.Rad1 e4 Buchicchio,G (2770)-Hantel,T (2790) 6/656 Amsterdam 1968 (4) ½-½]
6...0-0 7.exd5 cxd5 8.Bg5 Be6N
[8...d4 9.Nbd2 Nc6 10.Re1 h6 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Ne4 Qe7 13.Bd5 Bc7 14.Ng3 Qc5 15.Bb3 Na5 16.Rc1 Nc6 17.c3 dxc3 18.bxc3 Qd6 19.d4 exd4 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 Bb6 22.Re4 Bd7 23.Qh5 Cardenas,R (2559)-Dellis (2495) E. corres Germany 1981 (4.2) ½-½ Rae8 24.Rxe8 Bxe8 25.Rd1 Bd7 26.Qf3 Bc6 27.Ne4 Qg6 28.d5 Bd7 29.h3 Bxh3 30.Qxh3 Qxe4 31.d6 Qf4 32.Qf3 Qxf3 33.gxf3 Rd8 34.d7 Bc7 35.Ba4 a6 36.Re1 b5 37.Re8+ Kh7 38.Bc2+ Nevednichy,V (2559)-Charbonneau,P (2495) FRA-chT Top 16 GpA 2005 (4.2) ½-½]
9.Nc3 d4 0.57/21
[9...Bc7= 0.07/21]
10.Ne4± White is slightly better.
10...Bxb3 11.Bxf6
[11.cxb3 Be7=]
11...gxf6 12.axb3 Black must now prevent Nf3-h4.
[12.cxb3 simplifies f5 13.Nxd6 Qxd6 14.Nh4]
12...f5

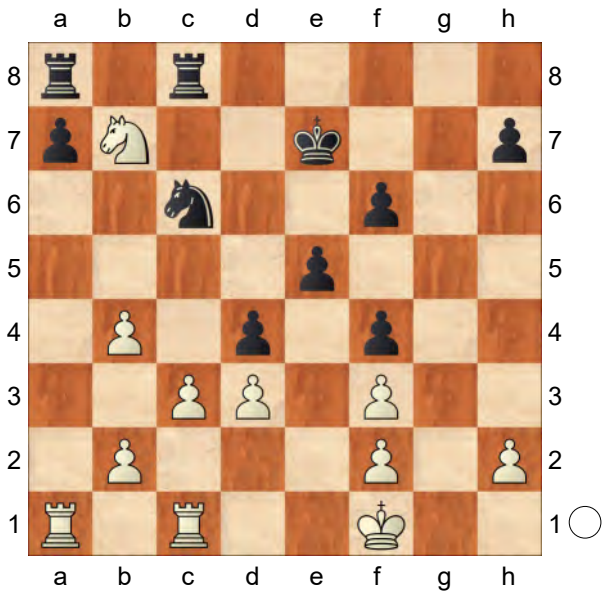


13.Nfg5 0.05/20 **f6** 1.02/20
[13...fxe4= 0.05/20 14.Qh5 Kg7]
14.Ne6!± White is more active. A dynamic duo of knights. **14...Qe7 15.Nxd6**
[15.Nxf8 fxe4 16.Nxh7 Qxh7±]
15...Qxe6 16.Nxb7 Qd5 17.Qf3↑ 0.88/20 White has strong initiative.
[⌓17.Na5 1.40/22]
17...Qxf3 18.gxf3 Rc8 19.Rfc1 f4 1.42/20
[⌓19...Nc6 0.84/20]
20.c3 Nc6 21.b4 Kf8 2.10/20

[21...Rcb8± 1.32/19 22.Nc5 dxc3 23.bxc3 Kf7]

22.Kf1 Ke7 2.18/20

[⌓22...Rcb8 1.73/20]



23.Nc5 1.28/20

[23.b5!+- 2.18/20 dxc3 24.bxc3 *(24.bxc6? loses. cxb2 25.Na5 bxc1N-+)*]

23...Rc7 2.22/21

[23...Rab8± 1.28/20 24.cxd4 exd4]

24.Nb3 Rd8 2.38/22

[24...Rb8± 1.51/21 25.Ra6 Rbb7]

(Diagram)

25.cxd4!+- Rcc8 26.dxe5 Nxe5 27.Rxa7+ Kf8 28.Rxc8

[Much less strong is 28.Rxh7 Rxc1+ 29.Nxc1 Rd4+-]

28...Rxc8 29.Nc5

[Not 29.Rxh7 Rc2 30.Nc5 Rxb2+-]

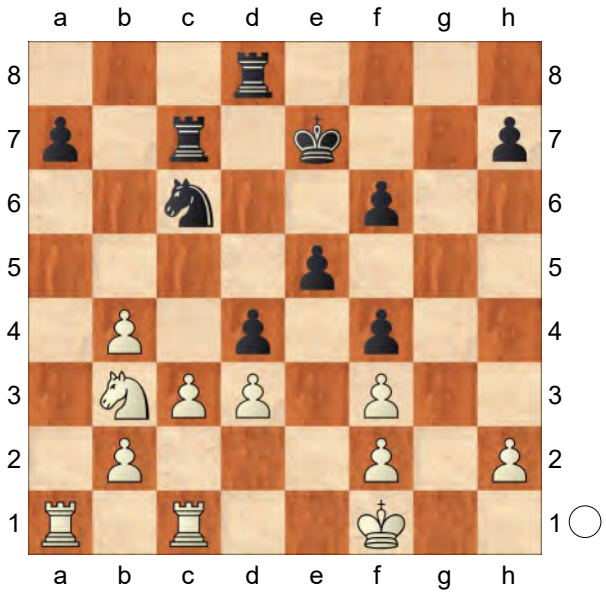
29...Nxf3 7.26/24

[⌓29...h6 4.15/19 30.d4 Nc6]

30.Rxh7 Ra8? 15.32/26

[30...Kg8 3.67/22]

31.Rh8+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.42

1-0

C24

□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2788**

■ **Le,Tuan Minh** **2567**

Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Feb Early blitz (9)

[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bd6

[5...Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 a5 8.a3 Qc7 9.Qg5 0-0 10.Qxe5 Qxe5 11.Nxe5 dxe4 12.d4 Nbd7 13.Nc3 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Ng4 15.e6 Bxe6 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Nxe4 Nakamura,H (2788)-Le,T (2567) Titled Tuesday intern op 16th Jan Early blitz 2024 (9) 1-0]

6.Nc3 h6 6...0-0 is a critical line. 6...0-0 ist die kritische Fortsetzung.

[6...dxe4 7.Ng5 0-0 8.Ncxe4 Nxe4 *(8...Be7 9.Nxf6+ Bxf6 10.Qh5 Bxg5 11.Bxg5 Qd6 12.0-0 Be6 13.Rfe1 Bxb3 14.axb3 f6 15.Be3 Na6*

16.Ra4 Nb4 17.Qg4 Nd5 18.Bd2 c5 19.Qe4 a6 20.c4 Nb6 21.Ra5 Rf7 22.b4 cxb4 23.c5 Kabanov,N (2500)-Kaniansky,M (2205) 26th European Club Cup 2010 (1.6) 1-0*)* 9.Nxe4 Bf5 10.0-0 Na6 11.Nxd6 Qxd6 12.Qf3 Be6 13.Qg3 Bxb3 14.axb3 Nb4 15.c3 Nxd3 16.Rd1 Rad8 17.Bg5 f6 18.Be3 a6 19.Rd2 Rfe8 20.Rad1 e4 21.Qxd6 Buchicchio,G (2770)-Hantel,T (2790) 6/656 Amsterdam 1968 (4) ½-½]

7.exd5 cxd5 8.Bxd5N

[8.0-0 Be6 9.Nb5 Nc6 10.Nxd6+ Qxd6 11.Re1 Bg4 12.h3 Bh5 13.g4 Nxg4 14.Nxe5 Ngxe5 15.Qxh5 g6 16.Qg4 Qe7 4) Bishop's Opening-2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 #5]

8...Nxd5 The position is equal. **9.Nxd5 Be6 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.Be3N**

[Vorgänger: 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Rc8 13.h3 Inhibits Be6-g4. Bb8 14.a3 f5 15.Bf4 Qf6 16.Bh2 Rfd8 17.Qe2 Fortunato,L (2152)-Cipka,I (2246) WC-2014-S-00009 2011 ½-½]

11...0-0 12.d4 exd4 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.Qxd4 Qb8 15.f4 -0.28/19 Dodges Bd6-e5

[⌓15.Qd3 0.10/19]

15...Be7= Black has compensation. **16.0-0 Bf6 17.Qe4 Re8 18.Qf3 Qc8 19.f5 Bc4** Threatens to win with ... Bf6xc3!

[19...Bxc3!? 20.bxc3 Bxf5=]

20.Rfe1 Re5 21.g4 b5 -0.04/20

[21...Qc7∓ -0.50/21 22.Bf2 Rxe1+ 23.Rxe1 Rd8]

22.Bf4 -1.12/19

[22.Ne4= -0.04/20 keeps the balance. Bh4 23.Bd4]

22...Rxe1+∓ 23.Rxe1 b4 24.Ne4 Bd4+ -0.23/21 This pair of bishops is nice.

[24...Bxb2∓ -1.11/21 Strongly threatening ...a7-a5! 25.Rd1 Bxa2 Discovered Attack]

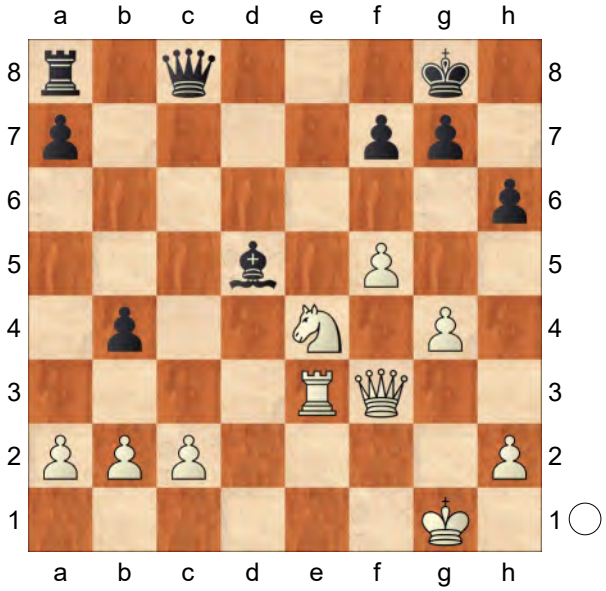
25.Be3 Bxe3+ 0.01/21

[25...Bxb2? 26.Nd6 Qf8 27.Nxc4+-]

[25...Be5∓ -0.55/22]

26.Rxe3= Bd5

[26...Bxa2 keeps more tension. 27.g5 Qxc2 28.Nf6+ gxf6 29.Qxa8+ Kh7]



Discovered Attack **27.Nf6+!** Discovered Attack **27...gxf6 28.Qxd5** Endgame. KQR-KQR **28...Qf8** Prevents Re3-e7 **29.Qd4 Kg7** 0.44/21

[29...Rc8= 0.01/21]

30.Kf2 -0.47/21

[30.g5!± 0.44/21 hxg5 31.Rg3]

30...Rd8!∓ 31.Qe4 Qd6 32.Kg2 Qd1 -0.01/24

[32...Qc5∓ -0.74/22 Hoping for ...Rd8-d4. 33.Re2 Rd4]

33.Re2 -0.53/23

[33.Re1= -0.01/24 Rd2+ 34.Kf1 Qxc2 35.Qxc2 Rxc2 36.Re2]

33...Rd4 34.Qf3 -1.15/24

[34.Re1!= -0.29/24]

34...Qc1!∓ 35.Qe3 -1.88/25

[35.b3∓ -1.19/22 was necessary.]

35...Rxg4+? 0.11/25

[35...Qxb2-+ -1.88/25 36.Kg3 Rc4 37.Qxa7 Qc1 *(37...Rxc2 38.Rxc2 Qxc2 39.Qf2∓)*]

36.Kh3⇄ White has counterplay

36...Qxe3+

[36...Qxb2 37.Kxg4 Qb1 38.Kh5 *(38.Qxa7 h5+ 39.Kh4 Qh1+-)* 38...Qd1 39.Qd2 *(39.Qxh6+ Kg8 40.Qd2 Qxd2 41.Rxd2 Kg7 42.a4 bxa3 43.c4 Kf8)* 39...Qxd2 40.Rxd2 Kh7 41.Rd4]

37.Rxe3= KR-KR **37...Rc4 38.c3 bxc3 39.Rxc3 Ra4 40.a3 h5 41.Kg3** -0.35/20

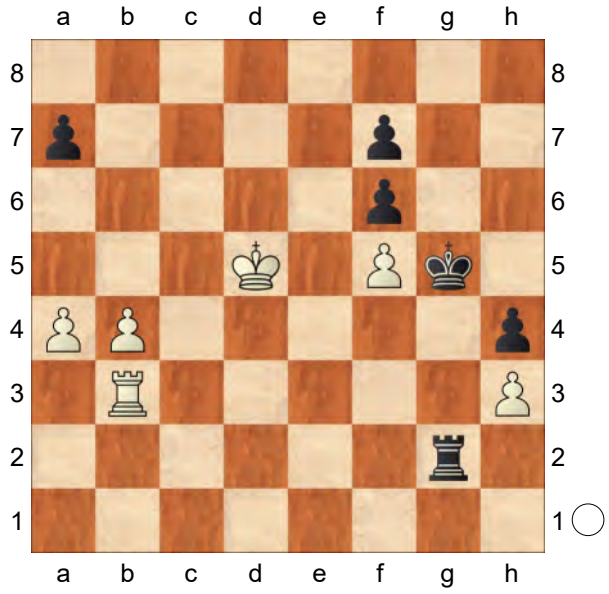
[41.Rc6= 0.01/23 is more appropriate.]

41...h4+ 0.01/23

[41...a5∓ -0.35/20 deserves consideration.]

42.Kf3 Kh6 43.b4 Kg5 44.Ke4 Ra6! 45.Rb3 Rc6 46.a4 Rc2 47.h3 Re2+ 48.Kd5 Rg2 1.11/24

[48...Kxf5= 0.01/23 49.b5 Ra2]



49.a5 0.48/22

[49.Kc6!± 1.11/24 aiming for Kc6-b7. Rg3 *(49...Kxf5 50.Kb7+-)* 50.Rb1 Rxh3 51.Kb7]

49...Rg3!± **50.Kc4** Black must now prevent b4-b5. **50...Kxf5 51.b5 Ke5 52.b6 axb6** (-> ...Rg3xb3) **53.a6** And now a6-a7 would win. **53...Rg8 54.Rxb6 f5 55.a7 Ra8 56.Ra6 f4 57.Kd3 Kd5 58.Ke2**

[58.Ra4 simplifies Kc5 59.Rxf4 Rxa7 60.Rxh4 Ra3+ 61.Kc2]

58...Ke4 5.65/35

[58...Kc5= 0.01/26]

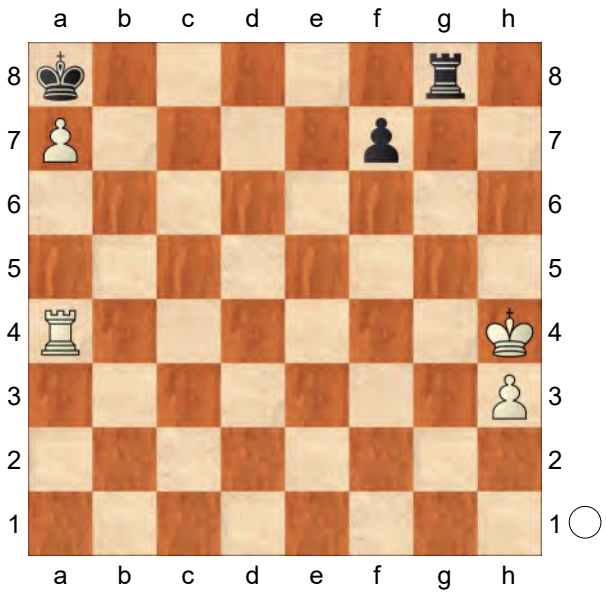
59.Ra4+ Kd5 60.Kf3!

[Inferior is 60.Rxf4 Rxa7 61.Rxh4 Ke5=]

60...Kc6 61.Kxf4

[61.Rxf4 Rxa7 62.Rxh4 Ra3+ 63.Ke2 Ra2+ 64.Ke1 Ra1+ 65.Kd2 Ra2+ 66.Kd1 Ra1+ 67.Kd2 Kd5=]

61...Kb7 62.Kg5 Rg8+ 63.Kxh4 Ka8



64.Kh5! f5 65.h4 Rg1 66.Rf4 Kxa7 67.Rxf5 Kb7 9.62/28

[⌓67...Kb6 4.07/27 68.Rg5 Rh1]

68.Rg5+- Rh1 69.Rc5 Kb6 70.Rc2 Rg1 71.Kh6 Rg8 72.h5 Rg1 73.Kh7 Kb7 74.h6 Rg3 75.Kh8 Rg1 76.h7 Rg3 Inhibits Rc2-c3. **77.Rf2 Kc7 78.Rf8 Kd7 79.Rg8 Rh3 80.Kg7 Rg3+ 81.Kf6** Quite a comeback for White.

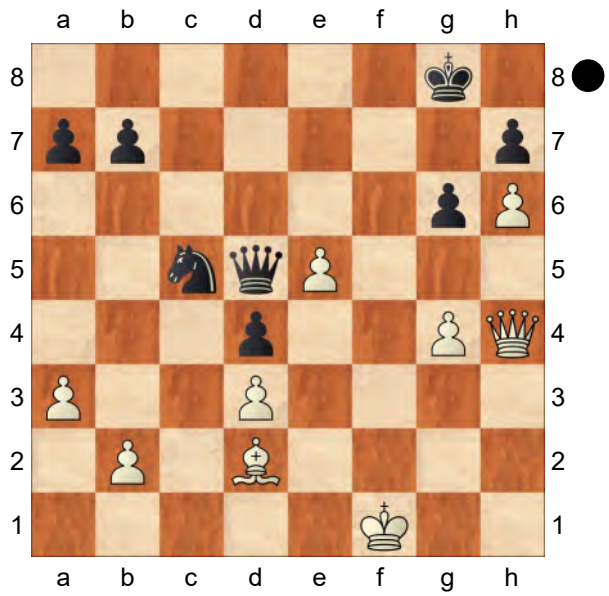
Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.29 (precise)
1-0

C23

□ **Aronian,Levon** **2729**
■ **Alekseev,Evgeny V** **2550**
CrunchLab Masters PlayIn rapid (6)
[Kitty Kat]

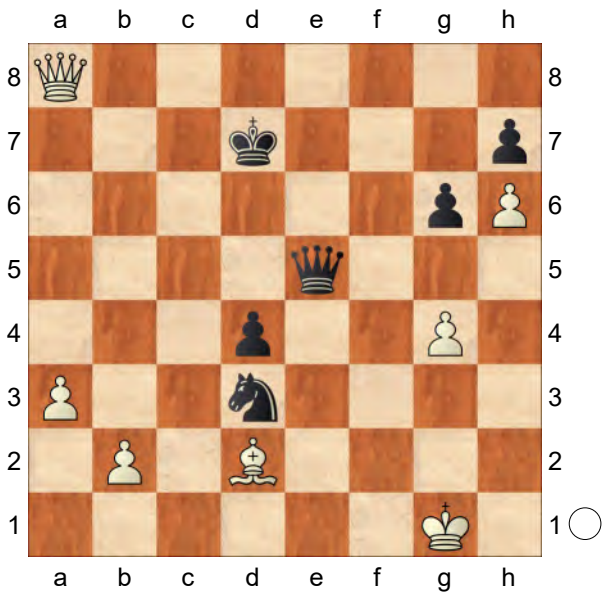
C23: Bishop's Opening: 2...Bc5
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Qf3
[3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Na4 Bb6 8.Nxb6 axb6 9.c3 0-0 10.0-0 exf4 11.Bxf4 Nh5 12.Qd2 Nxf4 13.Qxf4 Bxf3 14.Rxf3 Ne5 15.Rg3 Kh8 16.Bb3 Ra5 17.Rf1 Qe7 Kuijf,M (2465)-Leventic,I (2400) Mitropa Cup 16th 1995 (8) 1-0]
3...Nc6
[3...c6 4.Nc3 g6 5.d3 Bg7 6.h3 0-0 7.g4 d6 8.Nge2 Be6 9.Ng3 b5 10.Bb3 b4 11.Nd1 d5 12.Ne3 a5 13.g5 dxe4 14.dxe4 Nfd7 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Qg4 Qe7 17.Nc4 c5 18.Be3 8.♕c2 a6 9.♖d1 ♕c7 10.î (2359)-Janssen,H (2287) Doeberl Cup 42nd 2004 (5) 1-0]
4.Ne2 d6N
[4...Bc5 5.a3 d6 6.0-0 Bg4 7.Qd3 Nh5 8.h3 Bxe2 9.Qxe2 Nf4 10.Qe1 Nd4 11.Bb3 Nxh3+ 12.Kh2 Qh4 13.g3 Nf3+ 14.Kg2 Nxe1+ 15.Rxe1 Qg4 16.d3 Bxf2 17.Rh1 Qxg3+ 18.Kf1 Bd4 19.Ke2 Chapter Part-Games Chapter Part 3 (8) Qg2+ 20.Kd1 Qxh1+ 21.Kd2 Qg2+ 22.Ke1 Ng1 23.Nc3 Bxc3+ 24.bxc3 Qe2# Otero-Queens Gambit Cd5 Bradford 1888 0-1]
5.Nbc3 Be7 6.d3 0-0 7.a3 Be6 8.Nd5 The position is equal. **8...Nd4 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Bd2** -0.29/21
[⌓10.Nxf6+ 0.19/24 Bxf6 11.0-0]
10...c6 0.29/26
[⌓10...Nxd5 -0.29/21 11.exd5 Bd7]
11.Nxe7+ Qxe7 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.h4 -0.23/21
[13.0-0 0.20/25 should be considered.]
13...e5= 14.h5 Qe6 0.13/23
[14...h6∓ -0.36/24]
15.Qg3 d5 0.68/24
[15...Rf7= 0.11/23]
16.exd5 Qxd5 0.88/24
[16...cxd5± 0.43/23 17.0-0-0 h6]
17.f3→ White attacks. **17...c5 18.h6 g6 19.Qg5** 0.48/26
[19.0-0!± 1.01/22]
19...Rae8 20.0-0 c4 1.10/23
[Black should try 20...Qd6± 0.53/21]
21.Rae1± cxd3 22.cxd3 Nd7 23.f4! Rf5 1.91/20
[23...Nc5± 1.10/20]
24.Qh4!+- Nc5 2.25/23
[⌓24...Ref8 1.82/21 25.Bb4 g5]
25.g4? 0.00/31
[25.fxe5+- 2.25/23 Rf1xf5 is the strong threat. Qd8 26.Qg3 Rxf1+ 27.Rxf1]
25...Rff8 26.Rxe5 -0.72/18
[26.fxe5= 0.00/30 keeps the balance. Nxd3 27.Rxf8+ Rxf8 28.Qe7]
26...Rxe5∓ 27.fxe5 Hoping for Rf1xf8+. White is weak on the light squares
27...Rxf1+
[27...Nxd3 28.Rxf8+ Kxf8 29.Qf6+ Qf7 30.Qd8+ Qe8 31.Qd6+ *(31.Qxd4 Nxe5 32.Qd6+ Kf7±)* 31...Qe7 32.Qd5± *(32.Qxd4 Nxe5 33.Kg2 Ke8=)*]
28.Kxf1

(Diagram)



Nxd3= 0.00/28 Endgame. KQB-KQN
[28...Qf3+!∓ -1.11/29 29.Kg1 Qd1+ 30.Be1 Ne6]
29.Kg1 Qxe5 2.16/19
[29...Nxb2 30.Qe7 Qf7 31.Qd8+ Qf8 32.Qd5+ *(32.Qxd4 Qxa3 33.Qd8+ Kf7+-)* 32...Qf7 33.e6 *(33.Qxd4 Qe6+-)* 33...Qe7 34.Bb4 *(34.Qxd4 Nd3+-)* 34...Qe8 35.e7+ *(35.Qxb7 Qf8 36.Bxf8* Discovered Attack *Kxf8 37.Qf7#)* 35...Kh8 36.Qxd4+ Kg8 37.Qg7#]
[29...b5= 0.00/28]
30.Qd8++- Kf7 31.Qd7+ Skewer, Double Attack **31...Kf8 32.Qc8+**
[32.Qxh7? Qg3+ 33.Kh1 Nf2#]
32...Ke7 33.Qxb7+ Ke8 Threatens to win with ...Qe5-g3+. **34.Qa8+**
[34.Qxa7? Qg3+ 35.Kh1 Nf2#]
34...Ke7 aiming for ...Qe5-g3+.
35.Qxa7+ Ke8 (-> ...Qe5-g3+) **36.Qa8+**
[36.Qxh7? Qg3+ 37.Kh1 Nf2#]
36...Kd7 1.57/24
[36...Ke7± 0.57/20]

(Diagram)

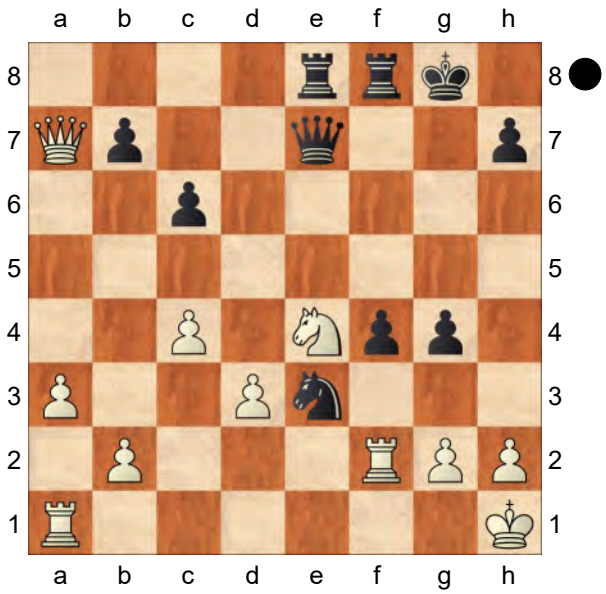


37.Qf3 0.40/19
[White has to play 37.Qb7+!± 1.57/24 Ke8 38.b4 *(38.Qxh7?* is a self mate. *Qg3+ 39.Kh1 Nf2#)*]
37...Nxb2± 38.Qb7+ Skewer, Double Attack **38...Ke6?** 5.80/21
[38...Kd8!= 0.07/21 and Black has nothing to worry.]
39.Qc6+? 0.00/22
[White should play 39.Qxb2+- 5.80/21 Qg3+ 40.Kf1 Qh3+ 41.Ke1]
39...Kf7? 5.83/21
[39...Ke7!= 0.00/22 and Black is okay.]
40.Qb7++- Ke6 41.Qb3+ Kd7? 6.47/20
[41...Kf6 3.27/19 42.g5+ *(42.Qxb2 Qg3+ 43.Kf1 Qf3+ 44.Ke1 Qg3+ 45.Ke2 Qxg4+ 46.Kd3 Qf5+ 47.Kc4 Qe6+ 48.Kc5 Qe5+ 49.Kc6 g5+-)* 42...Kf5 43.Qxb2 Qg3+ 44.Kf1 Qf3+ 45.Ke1 Qg3+ 46.Kd1 Qf3+ 47.Kc1 Qh1+ 48.Kc2 Qe4+ 49.Kb3 Qe6+ 50.Ka4 *(50.Kc2 Qe4+ 51.Kb3 Qd5+ 52.Ka4 Qa8+ 53.Ba5 Kxg5+-)* 50...Qa6+ 51.Ba5 Qc4+ 52.Qb4 Qc2+ 53.Kb5 Qe2+ 54.Kc5 d3]
42.Qxb2 White is clearly winning.
42...Qg3+ 43.Kf1 Qf3+ 44.Ke1 Qh1+

45.Ke2 Qe4+ 46.Kd1 d3 47.Qb5+ Kc8 48.Kc1
Weighted Error Value: White=0.48/ Black=0.60
1-0

C28
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru 2788**
■ **Lazavik,Denis 2566**
CCT Final playoff rapid (7.1) 12.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

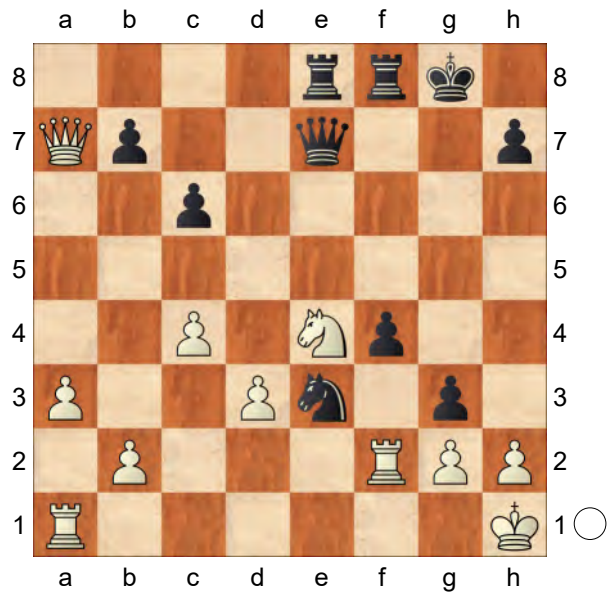
C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Nge2 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Be6 8.a3 Bc4xd5 would now be deadly.
[8.Bxd5 Bxd5 9.f4 f6 10.fxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.c3 Bd6 13.Nf4 Qf7 14.d4 0-0-0 15.Qa4 a6 16.Qb3 Qxb3 17.axb3 Ng6 18.Nxg6 hxg6 19.Bf4 Bxf4 20.Rxf4 Rde8 21.h3 g5 22.Rf5 Re2 Brachtel,R (2653)-Grube,J (2773) corr 9193 1991 (12) ½-½]
8...Be7N
[8...Bxc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.Re1 *(10.Bb3 Qh4 11.Qd2 Rad8 12.c4 Nde7 13.f4 e4 14.Bb2 Nf5 15.Rae1 Qg4 16.Ng3 Nxg3 17.hxg3 exd3 18.cxd3 Qxg3 19.Re3 Qg6 20.Qf2 Bg4 21.Rg3 h5 22.f5 Qg5 23.f6 g6 24.Bc1 Qh4* Pape,J (2638)-Bruce,R (2547) 63/457 Israel 1995 0-1 *25.Be3 Rfe8 26.Qf4 g5 27.Qf2 Nd4 28.Bd1 Nf5 29.Rxg4 Qxf2+ 30.Rxf2 hxg4 31.Rxf5 Rxe3 32.Rxg5+ Kh7 33.Bxg4 Kh6 34.Rg7 Rg3 35.Kh2 Rdxd3 36.a4 b6 37.Rg8 a5 38.Rg7 c5 39.Rg8 Rge3* Lagarde,M (2638)-Prusikin,M (2547) tornelo.com Internet 2021 0-1 *)* 10...Qd7 11.Rb1 Nb6 12.Bxe6 Qxe6 13.f4 Rfe8 14.Ng3 Qd7 15.f5 f6 16.Qf3 Ne7 17.Rf1 Rab8 18.Ne4 Nbc8 19.Qg4 Kh8 20.Rf3 Nd6 21.Nc5 Qc8 22.Qh5 Ndxf5 23.Rh3 Darini,P (2405)-Bok,B (2607) Chessable Masters Play-In rapid 2023 (2) 1-0]
9.Bxd5 Bxd5 10.f4 The position is equal. **10...f6 11.Ng3 Be6 12.fxe5 Qd4+ 13.Kh1 Nxe5 14.Qe1 0-0 15.Bf4 Rae8 16.Nge4 c6 17.Qg3 Ng6 18.Be3 Qd8 19.Bc5 f5 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Nd2 f4↑** Black has some pressure. **22.Qf2 Ne5 23.Nf3 Ng4 24.Qxa7 Ne3 25.Rf2! g5 26.Ne4** Excellent horsemanship. **26...g4 27.Nfg5** -1.36/21
[27.Nfd2∓ -0.50/18]
27...Bd5∓ Hoping for ...h7-h6. **28.c4 Bxe4** -0.74/19
[⌓28...Bxc4! -1.19/20 29.dxc4 h6]
29.Nxe4



g3 0.37/21

(Diagram)

30.Rxf4!± Remove Defender **30...Rxf4 31.Qxe3 Ref8** aiming for ...Rf4-f1+.
[But not 31...Qh4?! 32.Nf6+ *(32.Qxg3+ Qxg3 33.hxg3 Rff8=)* 32...Rxf6 33.Qxe8+ Rf8 34.Qe6+



Rf7 35.h3±]

32.hxg3 Rf1+ 33.Rxf1 Rxf1+ Endgame. KQR-KQN **34.Kh2 Qe5 35.Qe2** Prevents Qe5-h5+. **35...Rf5 36.Kg1 Qd4+! 37.Kh1** Black must now prevent Qe2-g4+. **37...Qe5** 0.53/22

[37...Qg7= 0.01/25]

38.g4 Rf7 39.g5 -0.01/22

[White should play 39.g3± 0.79/19]

39...Kg7 0.36/21

[39...Rf5= -0.01/22]

40.Kg1 Qd4+ 41.Kh1 Qe5! 42.g3 Re7 43.Qf2 0.01/23

[43.a4± 0.43/22]

43...Rf7= 44.Qe2 Re7 45.Qd2 0.01/22

[45.a4± 0.41/21]

45...Rd7 Strongly threatening ... Qe5xe4+! **46.Qh2** Threatens to win with Qh2-h6+. **46...Qf5**

[46...Rxd3 seems wilder. 47.Qh6+ Kf7 48.Qxh7+ Kf8]

47.Qe2 Inhibits Qf5-f1+. **47...Re7 48.Qc2** -0.01/22

[48.b4± 0.51/20]

48...Qf3+ 49.Kh2 Qf5 0.73/22

[49...Kg6= -0.01/22]

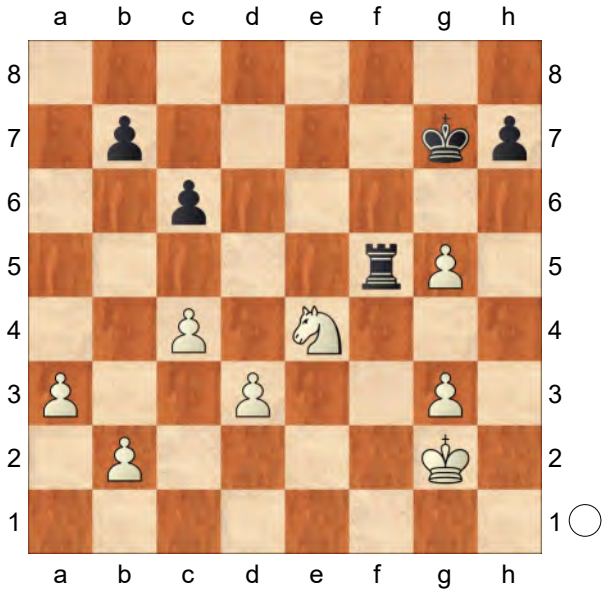
50.Qc3+ 0.01/24

[50.Kg2± 0.73/22]

50...Qe5 0.92/21

[50...Kg6!= 0.01/24]

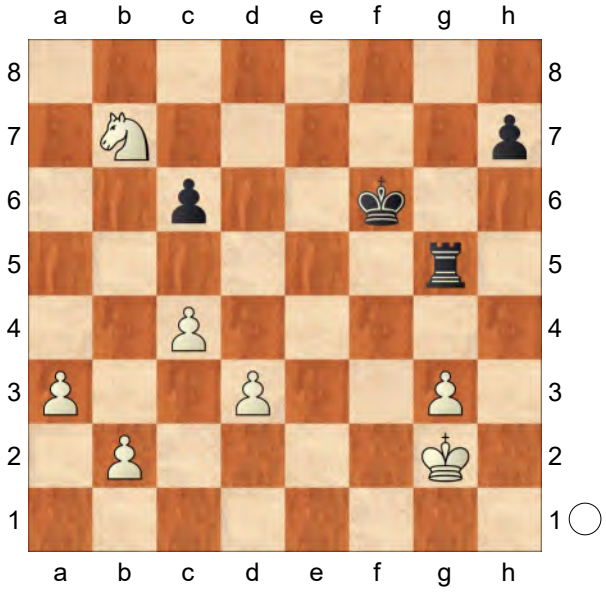
51.Qxe5+± Rxe5 KR-KN **52.Kg2 Rf5**



53.Nd6! Rxg5 1.71/23

[53...Rf8± 1.26/23]

54.Nxb7+- Kf6



55.a4 0.51/22

[55.Nd8!+- 1.85/22]

55...Rg7? 2.02/23

[Black should try 55...h5± 0.51/22]

56.Nc5 Ke5 2.23/23

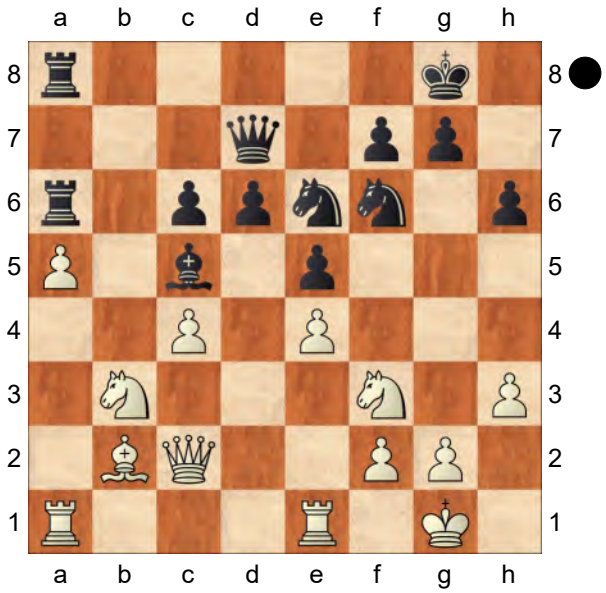
[⌓56...Rg8 1.83/24]

57.a5 Kd4? 17.54/22

[57...Rg8 2.19/22]
58.Ne6+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)
1-0

C54
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2775**
■ **Pichot,Alan** **2638**
Titled Tuesday intern op 18th Apr Late blitz (4)
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.d3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bc5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.h3
[7.Nbd2 a6 8.Bb3 Ba7 9.Re1 Ng4 10.Re2 Kh8 11.h3 Nh6 12.Nf1 f5 13.Bxh6 gxh6 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Bd5 Ne7 16.Be4 Ng6 17.Ng3 Bxe4 18.Rxe4 d5 19.Rg4 Dreev,A (2570)-Rashkovsky,N (2520) 48/(657) Palma de Mallorca 1989]
7...a6
[7...Be6 8.Nbd2 a6 9.Ng5 h6 10.Nxe6 fxe6 11.Bxe6+ Kh8 12.Nf3 Qe7 13.Bb3 Rad8 14.Nh4 Qe8 15.Nf5 Qh5 16.Be3 Qxd1 17.Raxd1 Bxe3 18.Nxe3 Na5 19.Bc2 c6 20.Nf5 d5 21.b4 Nc4 22.dxc4 Posizione 235 (1600)-10. ♗c4 IFSB Bundesmeisterschaft 1939 (4) 1-0]
8.Re1N
[8.b4 Bb6 9.Re1 Ne7 10.Be3 c6 11.Bxb6 Qxb6 12.Nbd2 Ng6 13.Bb3 Qc7 14.d4 Bd7 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Nc4 Rad8 17.Qd6 Qxd6 18.Nxd6 Bc8 19.Rad1 Rd7 20.Ng5 Nh8 21.Ne6 fxe6 22.Bxe6+ Nf7 8.♖e1 00 9.e5_64527 (2325)-Baigildin,A (2134) 65/480 Ljubljana 1995 (7) 1-0]
8...Ba7 9.a4 Be6 10.Nbd2 White has an edge. **10...h6 11.b4 Re8** 11...Nh5 is becoming the main line. 11...Sh5 wird zur Hauptvariante. **12.Bxe6 Rxe6 13.Qc2 Ne7 14.d4!?** Leaves trodden paths.Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade. **14...Ng6 15.b5 Qd7 16.d5N**
[Vorgänger: 16.bxa6 bxa6 17.Rb1 exd4 18.cxd4 Rae8 19.a5 Black must now prevent Rb1-b7. c5 20.Bb2! d4-d5 would now be deadly. cxd4 21.Bxd4 Bxd4 22.Nxd4 ½-½ (30) Rangel Garcia,R (2252)-Vila Hernandez,C (2350) ICCF email 2018]
16...Ree8 17.c4 c6 18.dxc6 bxc6 19.bxa6 Nf4 20.Nf1 Ne6 21.Bb2 Bc5 22.N1d2 -0.97/23
[22.a5∓ -0.53/20 is superior.]
22...Rxa6∓ 23.Nb3 Rea8 24.a5



Qb7 -0.25/23
[Black should try 24...Bb4!∓ -0.94/20 25.Bc3 c5]
25.Red1 -1.43/20
[25.Nxc5= -0.25/23 remains equal. Nxc5 26.Bc3]
25...Nxe4! Deflection **26.Rf1** -1.95/18

[26.Qxe4∓ -1.38/20 was necessary. Qxb3 27.Rdb1]

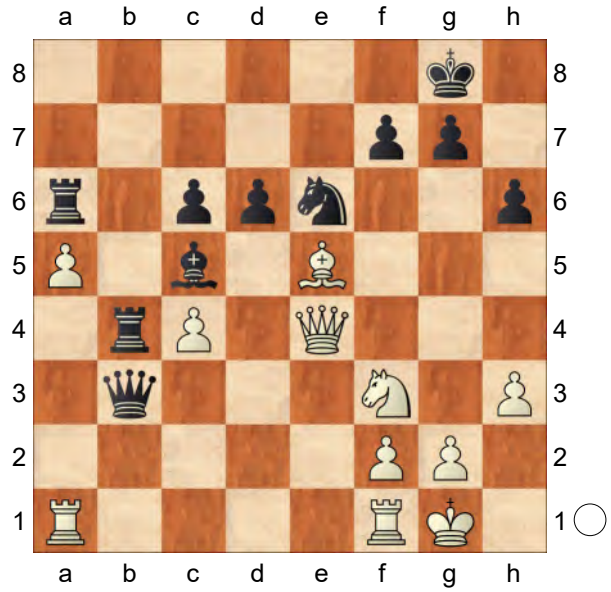
26...Rb8? 0.05/17

[Better is 26...f5-+ -1.95/18 aiming for ...Ra8-b8. 27.Rab1 Qa7]

27.Qxe4= Threatens to win with Rf1-b1!

27...Qxb3 28.Bxe5! Rb4? 2.99/19

[28...dxe5= 0.00/21 and Black has nothing to worry. 29.Rab1 Bxf2+ 30.Kh2 Bd4]



29.Nd2+- d5? 4.74/23

[29...Rxc4 2.72/21 was called for. 30.Nxc4 *(30.Qxc4 Qxc4 31.Nxc4 dxe5+-)* 30...dxe5 31.Nxe5 Qb4]

30.Qf5

Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.46

1-0

C54

□ **Osnos,Viatcheslav** **2775**

■ **Neumann,J** **2638**

(ol) 50/217 Novi Sad (4) 18.04.2023

[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.d3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bc5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.h3

[7.Nbd2 a6 8.Bb3 Ba7 9.Re1 Ng4 10.Re2 Kh8 11.h3 Nh6 12.Nf1 f5 13.Bxh6 gxh6 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Bd5 Ne7 16.Be4 Ng6 17.Ng3 Bxe4 18.Rxe4 d5 19.Rg4 Dreev,A (2570)-Rashkovsky,N (2520) 48/(657) Palma de Mallorca 1989]

7...a6

[7...Be6 8.Nbd2 a6 9.Ng5 h6 10.Nxe6 fxe6 11.Bxe6+ Kh8 12.Nf3 Qe7 13.Bb3 Rad8 14.Nh4 Qe8 15.Nf5 Qh5 16.Be3 Qxd1 17.Raxd1 Bxe3 18.Nxe3 Na5 19.Bc2 c6 20.Nf5 d5 21.b4 Nc4 22.dxc4 Posizione 235 (1600)-10. ♗c4 IFSB Bundesmeisterschaft 1939 (4) 1-0]

8.Re1N

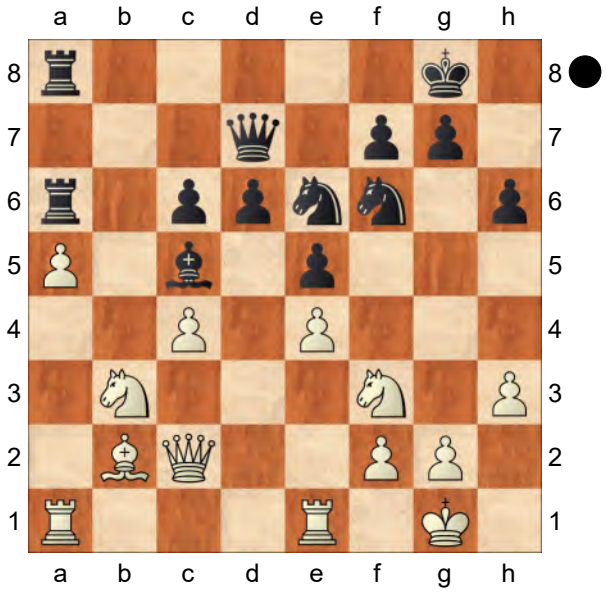
[8.b4 Bb6 9.Re1 Ne7 10.Be3 c6 11.Bxb6 Qxb6 12.Nbd2 Ng6 13.Bb3 Qc7 14.d4 Bd7 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Nc4 Rad8 17.Qd6 Qxd6 18.Nxd6 Bc8 19.Rad1 Rd7 20.Ng5 Nh8 21.Ne6 fxe6 22.Bxe6+ Nf7 8.♖e1 00 9.e5_64527 (2325)-Baigildin, A (2134) 65/480 Ljubljana 1995 (7) 1-0]

8...Ba7 9.a4 Be6 10.Nbd2 White has an edge. **10...h6**

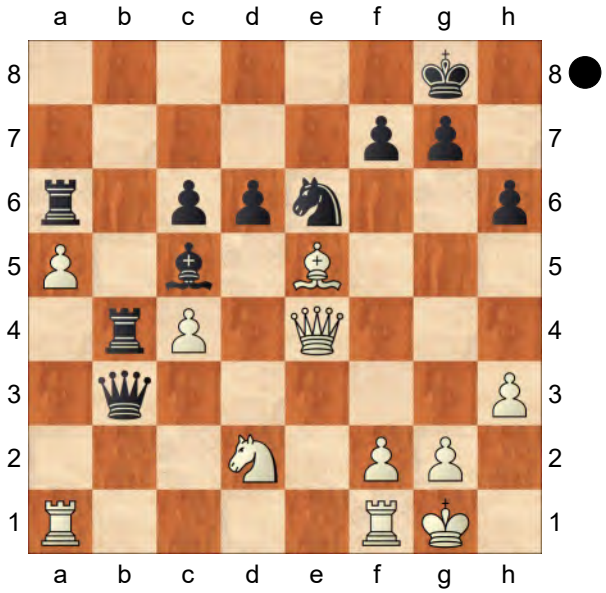
[10...Nh5 seems wilder. 11.b4 Qf6 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Nf1 Qg6]

11.b4 Re8 12.Bxe6 Rxe6 13.Qc2 Ne7 14.d4 Hoping for d4-d5. **14...Ng6 15.b5 Qd7 16.d5** -0.42/22

[16.bxa6 bxa6 17.Rb1 exd4 18.cxd4 Rae8 19.a5 Strongly threatening Rb1-b7. c5 20.Bb2! aiming for d4-d5. cxd4 21.Bxd4 Bxd4 22.Nxd4]
[16.bxa6= 0.00/23 is superior. bxa6 17.dxe5]
16...Ree8∓ 17.c4 c6 18.dxc6 bxc6 19.bxa6 Nf4 And now ...Nf4xh3+! would win. **20.Nf1 Ne6 21.Bb2 Bc5 22.N1d2** -0.89/23
[22.Bc3∓ -0.53/20]
22...Rxa6 23.Nb3 Rea8 24.a5



Qb7 -0.28/23
[Better is 24...Bb4!∓ -0.94/22 25.c5 Bxe1 *(25...Bxa5 26.Nxa5 Rxa5 27.cxd6±)* 26.Rxe1 Rxa5 27.Nxa5 Rxa5 28.cxd6 Qxd6]
25.Red1 -1.47/20
[25.Nxc5= -0.28/23 remains equal. Nxc5 26.Bc3]
25...Nxe4!∓ Deflection **26.Rf1** -2.02/19
[26.Qxe4∓ -1.39/18 keeps fighting. Qxb3 27.Rdb1]
26...Rb8? 0.20/17
[26...f5-+ -2.02/19 ...Ra8-b8 is the strong threat. 27.Bc1 Qf7]
27.Qxe4= Rf1-b1! would now be deadly.
27...Qxb3 28.Bxe5! Rb4? 2.89/19
[28...Bxf2+= 0.04/24 and Black stays safe. 29.Rxf2 dxe5]
29.Nd2+-



Trapped Piece **29...d5?** 4.56/22
[29...Rxc4 2.72/23 30.Nxc4 *(30.Qxc4 Qxc4 31.Nxc4 dxe5+-)* 30...dxe5 31.Nxe5 Qb4]
30.Qf5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.50
1-0

C28
□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2788**
■ **Hong,Andrew Z** **2539**
Titled Tuesday intern op 23rd Jan Late blitz (11)
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Nge2 Na5
[5...d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Be6 8.Bxd5 *(8.Ne4 Be7 9.Bb3 0-0 10.f4 exf4 11.Nxf4 Nxf4 12.Bxf4 Nd4 13.Bxe6 Nxe6 14.Be5 Qd5 15.Bc3 f5 16.Nd2 b5 17.Qf3 Rad8 18.Rae1 Bc5+ 19.Kh1 Nd4 20.Qg3 Bd6*

21.Qg5 Be5 22.Nb3 Bf6 Belkhodja,S (2366)-Kambrath,Y (2375) Noisiel op 5th 2021 0-1*)* 8...Bxd5 9.f4 f6 10.fxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.c3 Bd6 13.Nf4 Qf7 14.d4 0-0-0 15.Qa4 a6 16.Qb3 Qxb3 17.axb3 Ng6 18.Nxg6 hxg6 19.Bf4 Bxf4 20.Rxf4 Brachtel,R (2653)-Grube,J (2773) corr 9193 1991 (12) ½-½]

6.0-0N

[6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Nxc3 Nxc4 8.dxc4 d6 9.Qe2 h6 10.Be3 0-0 11.0-0-0 b6 12.f3 Ba6 13.g4 Nd7 14.h4 Nc5 15.g5 h5 16.f4 exf4 17.Bd4 Ne6 18.Bf6 gxf6 19.Qxh5 Bb7 20.Rdg1 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.N]

6...0-0 7.a3 Be7 8.Ba2 d6 9.f4 White is slightly better. **9...Be6 10.Nd5 Nc6 11.c4 a5 12.h3** White is more active.

[12.Nxe7+ simplifies Qxe7 13.f5 Bd7 14.h3]

12...Nd4 13.Be3

[13.Nxe7+ simplifies Qxe7 14.Nxd4 exd4 15.Bd2]

13...c5 14.fxe5 dxe5 15.Nxd4 Bxd5 16.Nf5 Be6 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Bg5 Rad8 19.Rf3 Rd6 20.Qe2 Rfd8 21.Raf1 And now Rf3xf6 would win. **21...Bc8 22.Bb1 b6 23.Qf2 h6 24.Bxf6 Rxf6 25.Rxf6 Qxf6 26.Qxf6 gxf6 27.Rxf6 Be6 28.Rxh6 Bxc4?** 2.38/27 **29.Rxb6 Bxd3 30.Bxd3 Rxd3±** Endgame. KR-KR **31.Rb5 f6 32.Rxc5 Rb3 33.Rxa5 Rxb2** 2.15/26

[⌓33...Kh7 1.66/28 34.Kh2 *(34.Ra6 Kg6±)* 34...Rxb2]

34.Kf1 0.88/25

[34.Ra7+- 2.15/26 is more deadly.]

34...Kf7 35.Ra7+ Kg6 36.Ra8 Kg5 37.g3 0.52/23

[37.a4!± 1.19/23]

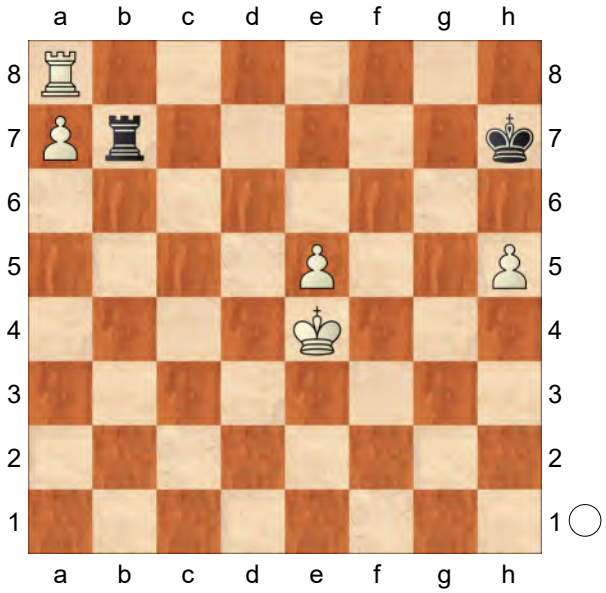
37...Rh2 1.90/26

[Better is 37...Kh6!± 0.52/23]

38.a4+- Rb2? 7.91/26

[38...Kg6 1.93/23 39.a5 Rxh3]

39.a5 Threatens to win with a5-a6. **39...Kg6 40.a6 Ra2 41.a7 Kg7** Inhibits Ra8-g8+. **42.Ke1 Ra4 43.Kd2** Kd2-c3 is the strong threat. **43...Ra2+ 44.Kc3 Ra3+ 45.Kb4 Ra1 46.g4 Ra2 47.h4 Ra1 48.Kc5 Ra4 49.Kd6 Ra1 50.Ke6 Ra6+ 51.Kf5 Ra1 52.g5 fxg5 53.Kxg5 Ra6 54.Kf5 Ra5 55.h5 Kh7 56.Kf6 Ra1 57.Kxe5 Ra6 58.Kd4 Rd6+ 59.Ke3** Threatening mate with Ra8-b8. **59...Rd7 60.e5 Re7 61.Ke4 Rb7**



62.Rh8+!! Kg7

[62...Kxh8 63.a8Q+]

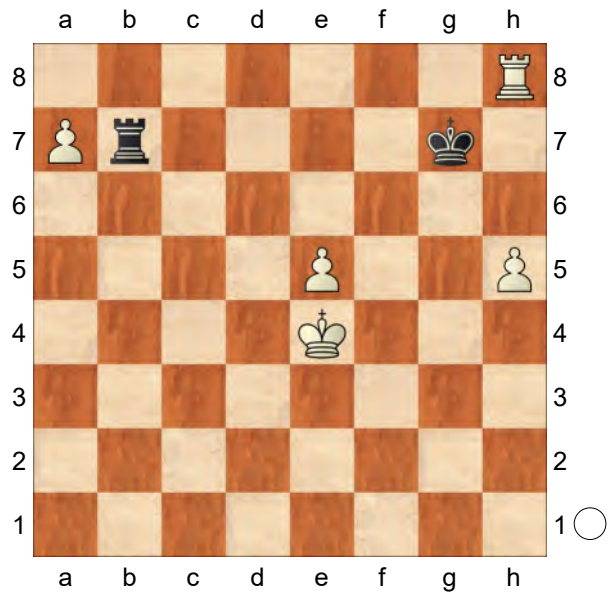
(Diagram)

63.Rh7+ 10.15/5 **Kxh7 64.a8Q** KQ-KR

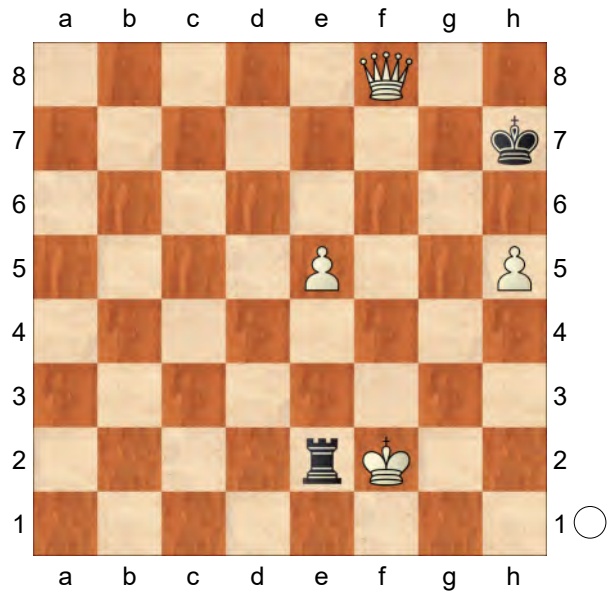
[Weaker is 64.a8B Ra7 65.Bd5 Kh6=]

64...Rg7 65.Qf8 Rg4+ 66.Kf3 20.81/23

[⌓66.Qf4 #12/24 Rxf4+ 67.Kxf4 Kg8 68.Kf5 Kg7 69.e6 Kf8 70.h6 Ke8



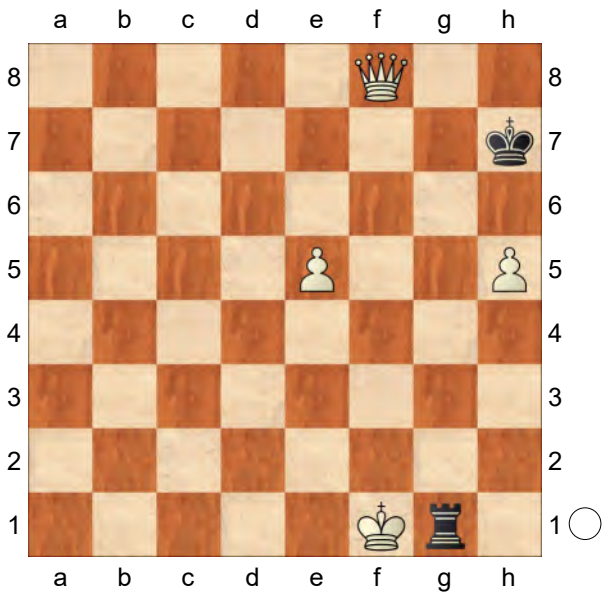
71.h7]
66...Rg3+ 67.Ke2 Re3+ 68.Kf2 Re2+



69.Kg1! Rg2+ 70.Kf1! Rg1+

(Diagram)

71.Ke2! Re1+ 72.Kd2 Rd1+ 73.Ke3 Re1+ 74.Kd4 Re4+ 75.Kc5 Rxe5+ 76.Kc6 Qf8-f7+ would kill now. **76...Rxh5 77.Qf7+ Kh6 78.Kd6** 14.60/29
[⌓78.Qf6+ #21/24 Kh7 79.Kd7 Rb5 80.Qh4+ Kg7 81.Qe4 Rh5 82.Ke6



Rh6+ 83.Ke7]
78...Rg5 79.Qf4 White threatens Qf4-h4+ and mate. **79...Kg6 80.Ke6 Rh5** Prevents Qf4-h4. **81.Qg3+ Rg5 82.Qd3+ Kg7 83.Qd4+ Kg6 84.Qe4+ Kg7 85.Qf4 Rg6+ 86.Ke7 Rg2 87.Qe5+ Kh7 88.Qe4+ Rg6 89.Kf7** White mates. **89...Kh8 90.Qh4+ Rh6 91.Qxh6#**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.30
1-0

C24
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2725**
■ **Petrov,Nikita** **2563**
Chessable Masters Play In rapid (2)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Bb3 d5 5.exd5 cxd5 6.Ne2N
[6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bg5 Be6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.0-0 Ng8 10.Bd2 Qd7 11.d4 exd4 12.Nb5 Nf6 13.Nbxd4 0-0 14.Re1 Bd6 15.Bc3 Bg4 16.Nb5 Be7 17.h3 Bh5 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Qxd5 Qxd5

20.Bxd5 Rad8 Paravyan,D (2620)-Deac,B (2680) Titled Tuesday intern op 24th Sep Late blitz 2024 (10) 0-1]

6...h6 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d4 Wards off Bf8-c5. The position is equal. **8...e4 9.Nbc3 Bb4 10.Bf4** With the idea Bf4-e5. **10...0-0 11.Be5 Bxc3 12.Nxc3 Be6! 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Nxd5 Qg5 15.Ne3** Threatens to win with Bb3xe6. **15...Bxb3 16.axb3** Strongly threatening c2-c3. **16...f5 17.f4 exf3 18.Rxf3 f4 19.Nc4↑** aiming for c2-c3. White fights for an advantage. **19...b5 20.Na5 Ne7 21.Qd3** 0.00/21

[White should play 21.Qd2± 0.66/19]

21...Nf5 1.10/20

[21...Rae8= 0.00/21 remains equal.]

22.Qxb5± Black must now prevent Rf3-f2. **22...Kh8** 1.87/23

[22...Nh4± 1.06/19 23.Qc4+ Kh8]

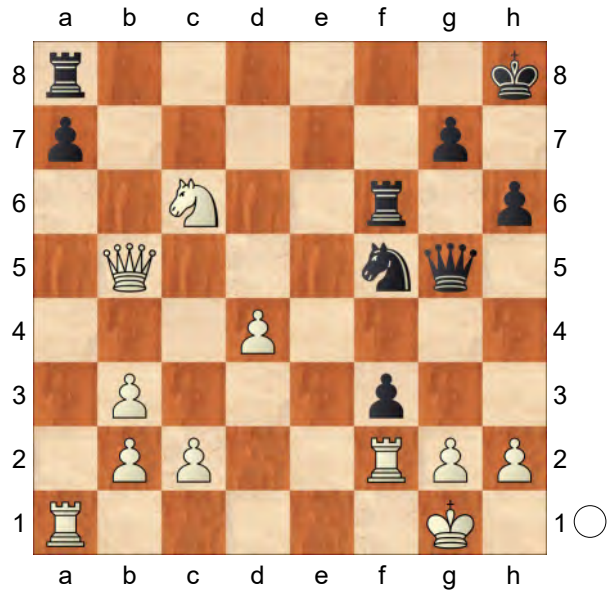
23.Nc6+- Rf6

[23...Nh4 24.Qxg5 Nxf3+ 25.gxf3]

24.Rf2

[24.Rxa7? Rxa7 25.Nxa7 Nxd4 26.Qxg5 *(26.Qe8+? Kh7-+)* 26...Nxf3+ 27.gxf3 hxg5-+]

24...f3



25.Rxf3 0.79/20

[25.Nxa7 fxg2 *(25...Nxd4 26.Qxg5 hxg5 27.gxf3=)* 26.Re1 Qh4-+ *(26...Rxa7 27.Qb8+ Kh7 28.Qxa7+-; 26...Nxd4 27.Qxg5 hxg5 28.Rxf6=)*]

[25.Ne5!+- 1.77/18 Nxd4 26.Qd5]

25...Rc8± 26.Raf1!

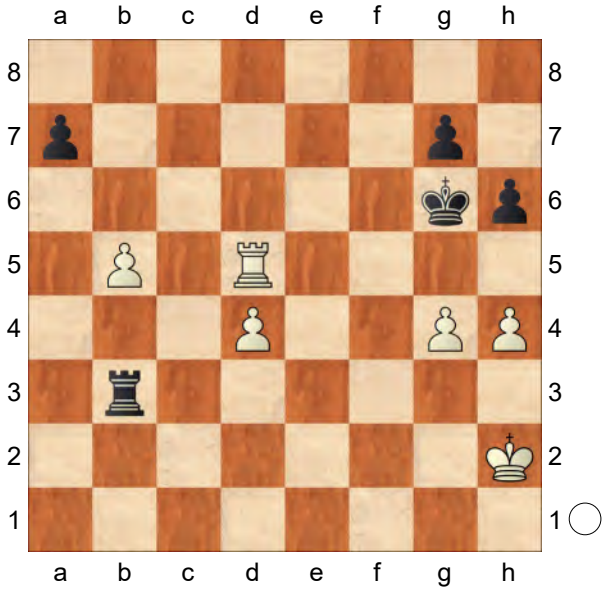
[26.Nxa7? perishes. Rxc2-+ *(26...Nxd4?* loses. *27.Qxg5 Nxf3+ 28.gxf3+-; 26...Nxd4? 27.Qxg5 Nxf3+ 28.gxf3+-)*]

26...Rcxc6 27.Rxf5 Rxf5 28.Qxf5 0.21/19

[28.Rxf5± 0.70/28 Qc1+ 29.Rf1 Qxc2 30.Qd5]

28...Qxf5= Remove Defender **29.Rxf5 Rxc2±** Endgame. KR-KR **30.b4** Threatening b2-b3. **30...Rxb2 31.b5 Rd2 32.Rd5 Kh7 33.h4 Kg6 34.Kh2 Rd3 35.g4 Rb3?** 2.20/28

[35...Kf6= 0.04/25]



36.Rf5? 0.26/27

[36.Kg2!+- 2.20/28]

36...Rb4= 37.h5+ Kh7 38.Rd5 Kh2-g3 is the strong threat. **38...Rb3 39.Kg2** And now Kg2-f2 would win. **39...Kg8 40.Kf2** Kf2-e2 would now be

deadly. **40...Kf7 41.Rd7+ Kf6 42.Rxa7** 0.06/18
[42.Rd5!± 0.68/24]
42...Rxb5 43.Kf3 Rb1? 7.08/22
[43...Rd5= 0.25/22]
44.Ra6++- White is clearly winning. **44...Kf7 45.Ke4 Rg1 46.Rg6 Re1+ 47.Kd5 Rd1 48.Kc5 Rc1+ 49.Kd6 Rd1 50.d5 Rd4 51.Kc6 Rc4+ 52.Kd7 Rd4 53.d6 Ra4 54.Kc7** Hoping for d6-d7. **54...Rc4+ 55.Kd8 Rd4 56.d7 Rc4 57.Rb6 Rxg4**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.21 (precise)
1-0

C24

□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2804**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2773**
Bucharest Superbet Classic 2nd (2)
[Giri,Anish, Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 Giri, Anish **1...e5 2.Bc4** This is a common way of avoiding the Petroff. Unlike the Italian though, in which the knight is already developed to c6, Black can be more flexible in choosing his setup. **2...Nf6 3.d3 c6** The principled way of using White's move order. **4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 a5** Including a5-a4 is smart, since after Bb4+ Bd2, the bishop on b4 will already be protected. **6.a4** I faced 6.Nc3 once and after 6...Bb4 we got a very complex game there as well. **6...Bb4+** This inclusion too, is quite clever and is well known by now. Black provokes c3, which seems like a useful move at first, but in fact it takes away the c3 square from the knight, which is quite relevant, as Black needs to maintain his stronghold on d5. **7.c3 Bd6 8.exd5** The position is equal.White gives up the center, but will now focus on putting pressure against the exposed d5 and e5 pawns. All theory so far. **8...cxd5 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Na3** The knight is heading towards a juicy square on b5. **10...Nbd7** Both ways to develop the knight are valid and 10...Nc6 has been tried as well, for example in Aronian-Duda 2020.
[10...Nc6 11.Nb5 Bb8 Aronian-Duda, Skilling rapid 2020.]
11.Nb5 Bb8 12.d4 White fixes the pawn structure. After positionally forced 12...e4 Black gets some space in the center, but the d5 pawn is somewhat of a target, the knight from f3 will head towards the blockading e3 square and White will be ready to start challenging Black in the center with f3 break. **12...e4 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nf1** The knight is heading towards e3. It is a typical idea, to do so before castling, as not to have to waste time for Re1, which may not even be a useful move, with rook likely belonging on the f-file. **14...h6 15.Bh4 Bf4** Typical, the bishop stands well here, as it cannot be easily chased away. g3 takes away a square from the h4 bishop. **16.h3** I am not sure why not bring the knight first, which was the move that has been played in the few games that reached this position. **16...Re8 17.g3?!** This weakens the kingside beyond repair. **17...Bb8 18.g4** Black is more than ready for the march of the g-pawn and it just creates weaknesses in White's camp. **18...Nf8!** The knight is getting transferred towards the juicy squares. **19.Ne3 Ng6 20.Bxf6N** -0.79/21
[20.Bg3∓ -0.39/22]
20...Qxf6∓ 21.Bxd5 White gets some

material for his misery but his king is dangerously weak. **21...Bxd5** It was possible to do it much more rough.

[21...Nf4! -0.26/21 21...Be6xd5 -0.73 Black could have given more material and gone straight for the king. 22.Bxb7 Nd3+ 23.Kd2 Bf4! Giving the exchange as well. 24.Bxa8 -0.43/21 *(24.Qf1=* -0.01/19 *)* 24...Rxa8 Soon it will be Black's turn to cash in, as White king is stuck in the center and the knight on d3 is ready to do some damage. It's easier to understand when you have the engine shouting that Black is winning, than when you are calculating this blindfold and see yourself being so much material down.]

22.Nxd5 Qg5 23.c4 Bf4 0.01/21 Prevents Qd1-d2The computer prefers to get rid of the strong d5 knight and offer a trade with

[23...Nf4! instead.]

[23...Nf4∓ -0.42/21 24.Nbc3 e3 25.fxe3 Ng2+ 26.Kd2 Nxe3 27.Nxe3 Rxe3]

24.Qb3 -0.44/20 The engine once again points out a very strong idea:

[24.Qe2 e3 ...e3xf2+ would now be deadly. 25.Kd1!! would defuse Black's initiative for a large part.]

[24.Qe2= 0.01/21]

24...h5?! 0.33/20 It's normal to target the kingside weaknesses,

[but better was to mobilize first and try to stop White from castling long: 24...Qh4 Hoping for ...e4-e3. 25.Ne3 Rad8]

[24...Qh4∓ -0.44/20 25.Kf1 e3]

25.Ne3!± Excellent horsemanship. Repositioning the knight well. **25...Qh4 26.gxh5 Qxh5 27.Qd1!** Fighting for the d1-h5 diagonal, to regain the castling rights. **27...Qh6 28.Nf5** 0.01/22 It's tempting to activate the pieces, but priority was to prepare long castle here with Qe2 and 0-0-0.

[28.Qe2± 0.48/20]

28...Qh7!= An awkward square, but the best Black has got

[since 28...Qg5 is met by 29.Qg4]

29.Qg4 Ra6

[It was a good moment to open the center with 29...e3!]

30.Kd1?! -0.26/19 Once again, the computers are unsatisfied, even though in principle, bringing the king to safety this way is a more than a reasonable thing. In fact a few moves ago, if you remember, it was the best way to play.

[Here, stronger is 30.h4 And now h4-h5 would win. Rf6 31.Nc3 redeploying the b5 knight.]

[30.h4!± 0.77/20]

30...Rf6 Black has compensation.

31.Re1 Nf8 32.Ne3 Ne3-d5 is the strong threat.Both sides are maneuvring the knights.

[32.Qxf4 Rxf5 33.Qh2 Qh4-+]

32...Bb8! 33.Qe2 Qh4

[33...Qxh3 34.Nd5 Rf3 35.Ra3 Rxa3 36.Nxa3=]

34.Rf1 Rf3 35.Kc2 Ne6 Black is coming for the weak kingside pawns slowly.

[35...Rxh3 36.d5 Ng6 37.d6=]

[35...Qxh3 36.Rh1 Qd7 37.Rh5±]

36.Nd5! Inhibits Ne6-f4. **36...Ng5** 0.13/20 There are alternatives all along, like here it's also possible to take 36.. Rxh3.

[Black should try 36...Rxh3∓ -0.59/19 37.Kb1 b6]

37.Rae1

[37.Ra3!? It was also possible to get

the rook into the game via the third rank.]

37...Re6

[37...Nxh3?! 38.Qxf3 exf3 39.Rxe8+ Kh7 40.Rxb8±]

[37...Qxh3 38.Kb1±]

38.Ndc3! Ref6

[38...Qxh3 39.d5 Re5 40.Rh1∓]

39.Nd1 -0.56/20 Insane show of ambition. White should consider himself pretty fortunate that there is a move repetition available with 39.Nd5.

[39.Kb1= 0.18/22]

39...R3f4↑ Black is more active.

[Even stronger is to just pick up the pawn with 39...Rxh3]

[39...Qxh3?! 40.Kb1=]

40.Qe3 -1.06/20

[40.Kb3∓ -0.59/18]

40...Nf3!∓

[40...Nxh3 41.Rh1 Rh6 42.Qc3±]

[40...Qxh3?! 41.Qxh3 Nxh3 42.Kb1=]

41.d5 Be5 Black is more active. All Black's pieces are perfect and White's passed d-pawn is not enough compensation for all of that.

[41...Nxe1+ 42.Rxe1 Be5 43.c5]

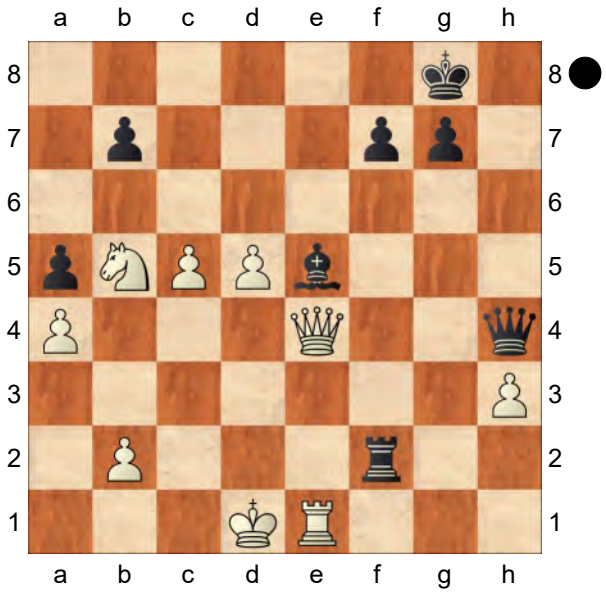
42.c5 Nxe1+ Nepo is forcing matters and indeed this is close to winning. White does have a miraculous defense though and it was better to keep the tension. **43.Rxe1 Rxf2+ 44.Nxf2 Rf3?!** Very clever, but apparently White has a defense. Simple endgame after 44... Rxf2+ was actually techincally winning.

[44...Rxf2+! 45.Re2 Rxe2+ 46.Qxe2 Qf4 Inhibits Qe2-e3. 47.d6 e3 Black is winning here, even though it seems that White may have some defense, thanks to his strong passed d-pawn.]

[44...Rxf2+ 45.Re2 Rxe2+ 46.Qxe2∓]

45.Nxe4? -1.91/19 This move loses the game for White.Trusting the opponent and settling on a queen down position, where White appears to have some saving chances, but in fact doesn't really have them.

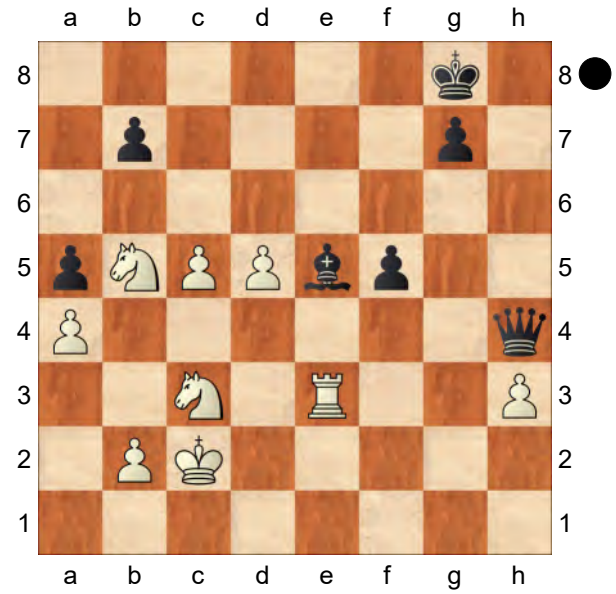
[45.Qxe4! Rxf2+ 46.Kd1!



This looks incredibly scary, but actually Black doesn't have any checkmate. Qxh3 -0.01/23 *(46...Qh5+!∓ -0.88/20 47.Re2 Bf6)* 47.Re2 One can't be sure, but the engines aren't seeing any checkmate and so there is none. White had to take a leap of faith here, but I understand that 45.Nxe4 wasn't looking hopeless enough for this to be an easy decision.]

[Better is 45.Qxe4∓ -0.67/23 Rxf2+ *(45...Qxf2+ 46.Re2∓)* 46.Kd1 Qh5+ 47.Re2 *(47.Qg4 Qh6∓)* 47...Bxb2 *(47...Qxe2+ 48.Qxe2 Rxe2 49.Kxe2±)* 48.Ke1 Rxe2+ 49.Qxe2 Qh4+ 50.Qf2 Qe4+ *(50...Qxa4 51.Qxb2 Qe4+ 52.Kf2=)* 51.Qe2 Qh1+ *(51...Qxd5 52.Qxb2 Qe4+ 53.Kd2±)* 52.Kf2]

45...Rxe3-+ 46.Rxe3 f5 47.Nec3



Bxc3 Nepo goes conversion mode. **48.Nxc3** Endgame. KQ-KRN **48...Qf2+** Skewer **49.Kd3 f4**
[49...Qxb2? is the wrong capture. 50.d6 Qf2 51.d7+-]
50.Re4 -3.50/24
[50.Re8+ -1.87/18 Kh7 *(50...Kf7? 51.Re5-+)* 51.Re4]
50...Qg3+
[Inferior is 50...Qxb2 51.Rxf4 Qg2 52.Re4=]
51.Kd2? -6.21/20
[51.Kc2 Was another try, but White can't defend here either. f3 52.d6 aiming for d6-d7. Qg2+ 53.Kb3 Qd2 The d-pawn is stopped and the f-pawn is still running. It's good to have the queen.]
[51.Kc2 -2.98/23 Qg6 *(51...Qxh3? 52.Rd4-+)* 52.c6 bxc6 53.dxc6]
51...f3 Black is clearly winning.
[Worse is 51...Qxh3 52.Rxf4 Qg2+ 53.Ke3=]
52.d6 Qg2+ 53.Ne2
[53.Ke3 loses in a very remarkable way. f2 54.d7 f1N+!! and Qd2+ picks up the d7 pawn. Interestingly, it seems that the underpromotion is the only way to win on the spot.]
53...f2 54.Re8+
[54.d7 Qg5+ This is an important intermezzo, taking d8 square under control.]
54...Kf7 55.Re7+ Kf6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.57/ Black=0.08 (flawless)White ran out of checks and can't stop the f-pawn from queening, so he should resign.
0-1

C24
□ **Demchenko,Anton** **2609**
■ **Paravyan,David** **2612**
Chessable Masters Div 3 Win rapid (1.2)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bd6 6.exd5 Nxd5 0.29/19
[⌓6...cxd5 -0.15/23 7.Bg5 Nc6]
7.0-0= 0-0! 8.Re1 Nd7 White has an edge. **9.Bg5N** Exploring less charted territory .Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.
[9.Nbd2 Re8 10.Ne4 Bc7 11.Bg5 *(11.h3 h6 12.Bd2 Nf8 13.Nh2 f5 14.Qh5 Nh7 15.Nf3 Rf8 16.Nc3 f4 17.Qh4 Ng5 18.Nxg5 hxg5 19.Qh5 Bf5 20.Nxd5 cxd5 21.Bc3 Re8 22.Qf3 Be6 23.Bxe5 Ba5 24.c3 Bf7 25.Qg4 Re6* Nevednichy,V-Beliavsky, A European Championship, Plovdiv 2008 1-0 *26.Bd4 Qe7 27.Rxe6* 11.♘e5 ♘bd7 12.♘g4-Govashelishvili, G corr EU/TC10/final 2017 1-0*)* 11...f6 12.Bd2 Kh8 13.h3 Nf8 14.d4 exd4 15.Nxd4 Black Plays Nf6-A112 Exd5]
[9.d4 exd4 10.Bxd5 cxd5 11.Qxd4

Bc5 12.Qd3 Qb6 13.Re2 Nf6 14.Nc3 Bg4 15.Na4 Qc6 16.Nxc5 Qxc5 17.Be3 Qc4 18.Rd2 Qxd3 19.Rxd3 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Rfe8 21.Rb3 Re7 22.Rd1 Rc8 23.Bxa7 Rxc2 Sethuraman,S (2751)-Grankin,F (2755) Saint John (open II) 45/17 1988 (2) 1-0]

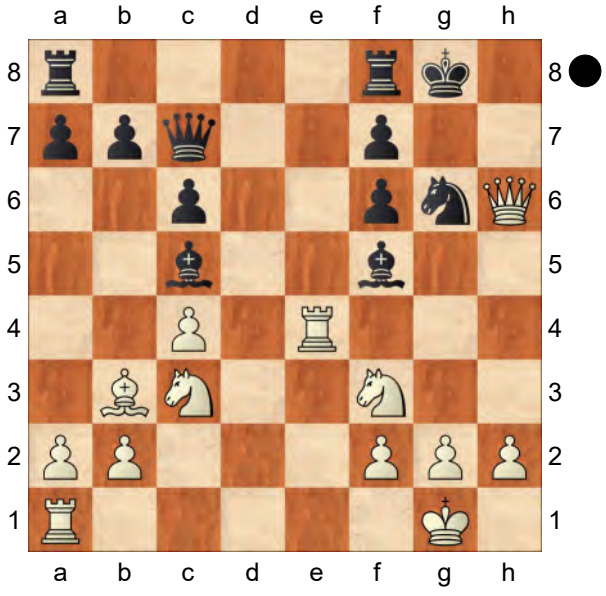
9...Qc7 **10.d4N** Repels Nd7-c5

[Vorgänger: 10.Na3 Bxa3 11.bxa3 f6 12.c4 Ne7! 13.c5+ Kh8 14.Be3 Ng6 1.04/19 *(14...Nf5± 0.36/22)* 15.h4± Ne7 16.d4 0.50/21 Souleidis,G (2415)-Malikentzos,S (2420) GRE-chT 46th 2018 (7.2) 1-0 *(16.Qc2± 0.89/21)*]

10...exd4 11.Qxd4 h6 12.Bh4 Bc5 13.Qd2 White is more active. **13...N7f6 14.c4 Nf4 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Re4! Ng6**

[But not 16...Bd6 17.c5 Be5 18.Nxe5 fxe5 19.Qe3±]

17.Qxh6 aiming for Nb1-c3. **17...Bf5 18.Nc3**



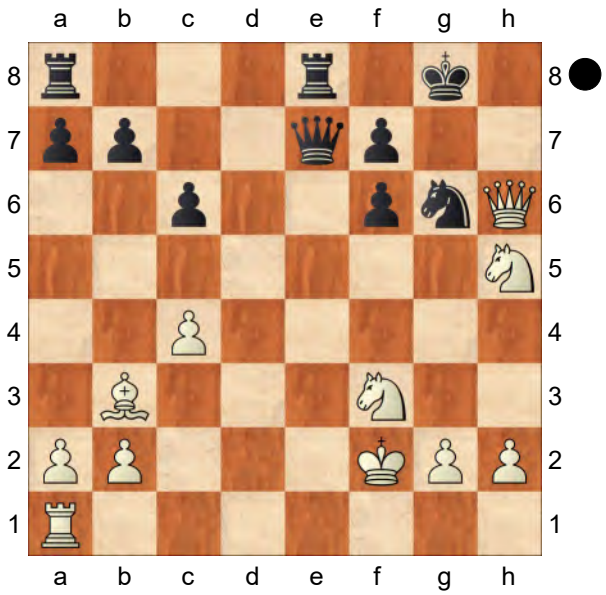
Black must now prevent Nf3-h4! The board is on fire. **18...Bxe4??** 3.24/18 Black cannot hold the game after this.

[Better is 18...b6± 0.69/21]

19.Nxe4+- Qe7 5.39/22

[19...Bxf2+ 3.37/20 was worth a try. 20.Kxf2 Qf4 21.Qxf4 Nxf4]

20.Ng3 Ng3-f5 would kill now. Excellent horsemanship. **20...Bxf2+ 21.Kxf2** Intending Ng3-f5 and mate. **21...Rfe8 22.Nh5**



Qe2+ 23.Kg3 Re6 24.Qg7#

Weighted Error Value: White=0.00 (flawless) /Black=0.74

1-0

C24

□ **Andreikin,Dmitry** **2729**

■ **Grigoriants,Sergey** **2536**

Titled Tuesday intern op 16th Apr Late blitz (10)

[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 0-0 8.Nc3N -0.36/19

[8.Nxe5= 0.14/22 Qe7

A) 9.f4 dxe4 10.d4 *(10.Nc3 exd3 11.0-0-0 dxc2 12.Rde1 Qc7 13.g4 Be6 14.g5 Nfd7 15.g6 Nxe5 16.gxh7+ Kh8 17.fxe5 Bxb3 18.Rhg1 g6 19.axb3 Nd7 20.Qg5* Bartel,M (2641)-Rausis,I

(2589) Cesko 131/105 2016 ½-½) 10...Nd5 11.0-0 f6 12.Nc4 Kh8 13.Nc3 Nxc3 14.Qxc3 f5 15.Ne5 Be6 16.Qh3 Kg8 17.g4 fxg4 18.Qxg4 Bxb3 19.axb3 Na6 20.Rae1 Nc7 21.Rxe4 Ne8 22.Qd7 Qxd7 23.Nxd7 Rf7 10. ♗a3 b6 11.ba5 ♘h5 1525 (2785)-Gishi,T (2653) Sollentuna op 1995 (11.3) 1-0;

B) 9.Qc3]

[8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 f6 10.h3 Be6 11.Nc3 Nf4 12.d4 Bxb3 13.axb3 Na6 14.Ra4 Qd7 15.dxe5 Qxd2 16.Nxd2 fxe5 17.Nc4 Nc5 18.Raa1 Ng6 19.Rfe1 e4 20.Nxe4 Nxe4 21.Rxe4 a6 22.Na5 Rf7 Askarian,K (2295)-Moskalenko,V (2469) 75/(58) Alushta 1999 23.Rae1 Kf8 24.Rb4 Rd8 25.Nxb7 Asis Gargatagli,H (2530)-Oliver Martinez Fornes,C (2073) Barbera del Valles op 45th 2023 (3) 1-0]

8...Re8∓ 9.Qg5 -0.91/26

[9.h3∓ -0.40/20]

9...h6 10.Qh4 a5 ...d5-d4 is the strong threat. **11.exd5** -2.18/20

[11.a3∓ -0.82/22]

11...a4!-+

[11...cxd5 12.0-0∓]

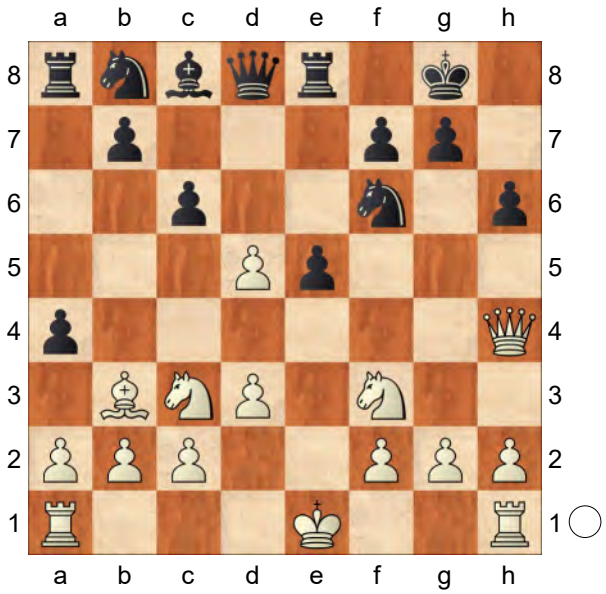
(Diagram)

Deflection **12.Nxa4 e4**

[12...Nxd5? loses. 13.Qxd8 Rxd8 14.0-0+- *(14.Nxe5 Re8±)*]

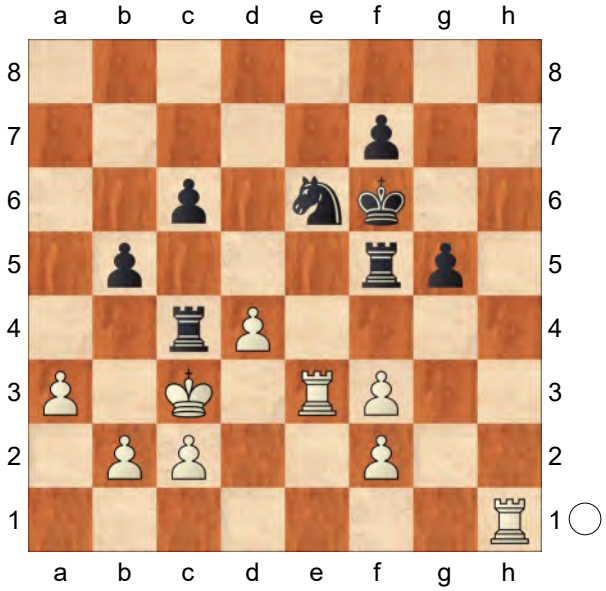
[12...cxd5 13.0-0=]

13.0-0-0 d3xe4 would now be deadly. **13...exf3 14.gxf3 Nxd5** Discovered Attack **15.Qxd8 Rxd8 16.Rhe1 Be6 17.Nc5 Bc8 18.Re4 Nd7 19.Nxd7 Bxd7**



[Resist 19...Rxd7 20.Re8+ Kh7 21.Rde1-+]

20.Rde1 Be6 21.a3 Nc7 22.Rb4 b5 23.Bxe6 Nxe6 24.Rbe4 g5 25.Kd2 Kg7 26.Kc3 Rd5 27.h4 Kf6 28.hxg5+ hxg5 29.Rh1 Rf5 30.Re3 Ra4 31.d4 Rc4+



Deflection **32.Kb3 Nxd4+ 33.Ka2 Rxc2 34.Rh6+ Kg7 35.Rd6 Nxf3 36.Kb3 Rxf2 37.Kb4 g4** And now ...g4-g3 would win. **38.Rd8 Rxb2+ 39.Ka5 b4+ 40.Ka4 bxa3 41.Ree8 Rg5** -12.43/20

[⌓41...a2 -#9/16 42.Rg8+ Kf6 43.Rd6+ Ke7 44.Rd1 Rb1 45.Rxb1 axb1Q 46.Ra8 Qa2+ Skewer 47.Kb4 Rb5+ 48.Kc3 Qb3#]

42.Rg8+ Kf6 (-> ...a3-a2) **43.Rd6+ Ke7 44.Rgd8 Ne5 45.Kxa3 Rf2** -10.77/18

[⌓45...Nc4+ -#2/16 46.Ka4 Ra5#]

46.Kb3 g3 Black mates. **47.Rd1 g2 48.Ra8 g1Q 49.Ra7+ Ke6 50.Rd6+ Kxd6 51.Rd7+** Black took control after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.75/ Black=0.22 (precise)

0-1

C27

□ **Salman,Fatima** **2752**

■ **Fuentes,Ma** **2566**

Chicago op 19th (9) 28.08.2023

[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 0-0 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 c6 7.a4

[7.h3 Nbd7 8.a3 Bb6 9.Ba2 Re8 10.Re1 Nf8 11.Be3 Be6 12.d4 Bxa2 13.Rxa2 exd4 14.Bxd4 Ba5 15.b4 Bb6 16.Ra1 Ne6 17.Bxb6 axb6 18.a4 Qc7 19.Qd3 Rad8 20.Rad1 Nf4 21.Qd2 Ne6 Kostka,V (2694)-Roehrich,S (2735) Sarajevo 1999 (7) ½-½]

7...a5 8.Kh1N The position is equal.

[8.h3 Re8 9.Be3 Bxe3 10.fxe3 Be6 11.Bxe6 Rxe6 12.Rf2 Nbd7 13.b3 h6 14.Qe2 Qb6 15.Raf1 Rae8 16.Kh2 Qb4 17.Qd2 Nh7 18.Qe1 Bellmann,H (2471)-Perez,N (2295) corr SM-2010-0-00099 ½-½]

8...Na6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Ne2 Qe8 13.c3 Ba7 14.Bxf6 Rxf6 15.Ng3 Rf7 16.Qe2 Qe7 17.Nd2 Raf8 18.f3 d5

White is weak on the dark squares

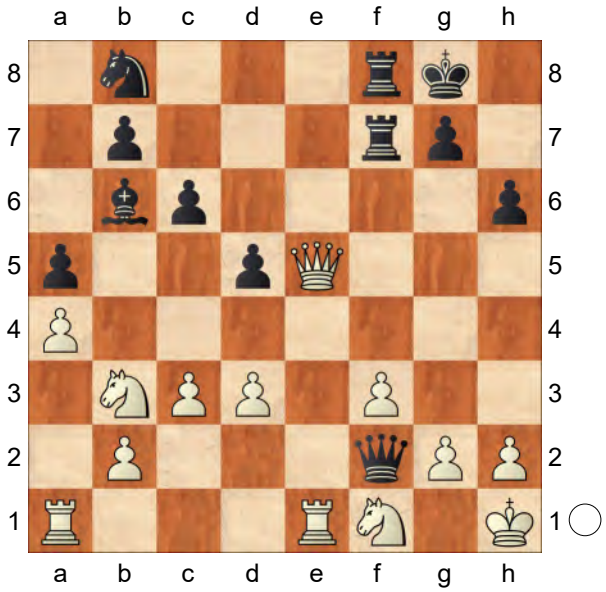
19.Rfe1 Qh4 20.Nb3 Bb6

[20...Qd8 simplifies 21.Qc2 d4 22.Nf1 Bb8]

21.Nf1 Nb8 0.13/21

[21...Qg5∓ -0.35/16 22.Ne3 Nc5 23.Nxc5 Bxc5]

22.exd5= exd5 23.Qxe5 Qf2



24.Nfd2! Bc7 0.96/21 Black is on the road to losing.

[24...Nd7± 0.55/21 might be stronger. 25.Qe2 Qh4]

25.Qd4± Qxd4 26.Nxd4 Bb6 27.N2b3 Nd7 28.Re2 g5 29.g4 h5 30.Nf5

A dynamic duo of knights.

[30.gxh5 Rh7]

30...Rh7 Against Nf5-h6+ **31.Kg2**

White is more active. **31...Nf6** 2.31/22

[⌓31...hxg4 1.62/22 32.fxg4 Nf6]

32.h3+- hxg4 33.hxg4

[33.fxg4 Nh5 34.gxh5 *(34.Ne7+ Rxe7 35.Rxe7 Rf2+ 36.Kg1 Re2+ 37.d4 Rxe7∓)* 34...Rxf5±]

33...d4 34.c4 Inhibits Nf6-d5.

[34.Nfxd4 Nd5 35.Re5 *(35.Ne6? Rf6-+)* 35...Nf4+ 36.Kg1 Nh3+

37.Kf1 Nf4=]

34...Bc7 3.70/24

[⌓34...Nd7 2.56/21 35.Rae1 *(35.Nfxd4 Nc5±)* 35...Bc5 36.Nbxd4 *(36.Nxa5 Bb4±)* 36...Bb4]

35.Rh1

[35.Nfxd4 Rh2+ 36.Kg1 Rxe2 37.Nxe2 Nd7+-]

35...Rxh1 36.Kxh1 Bf4 37.Re7 Dodges Nf6-d7

[37.Nfxd4 Rd8 38.Kg2 b6+-]

37...b5 38.axb5

[38.Nxa5 bxc4 39.Nxc4 *(39.Nxd4 cxd3 40.Nc4 Rd8∓; 39.Rg7+ Kh8+-)* 39...Nd5+-]

[38.cxb5 cxb5 39.axb5 *(39.Nbxd4 bxa4 40.Ne6 Rc8+-)* 39...Rc8+-]

38...cxb5 39.cxb5

[39.Nxa5 bxc4 40.Nxc4 Nd5 41.Rg7+ Kh8±]

39...Rc8 40.Re2 Dodges Rc8-c2

[40.Nxa5 Rc1+ 41.Kg2 Nd5=]

[40.Nfxd4?! a4+-]

40...Nd5 41.Nbxd4

[41.Nxa5 Rc1+ 42.Kg2 Bc7 43.Ne7+ *(43.Re8+ Kf7=)* 43...Nxe7=]

41...Kf7 42.Kg2 Rh8 43.Kg1 Bc7 4.33/20

[43...Rb8 3.09/21 was necessary. 44.Re6 Rd8]

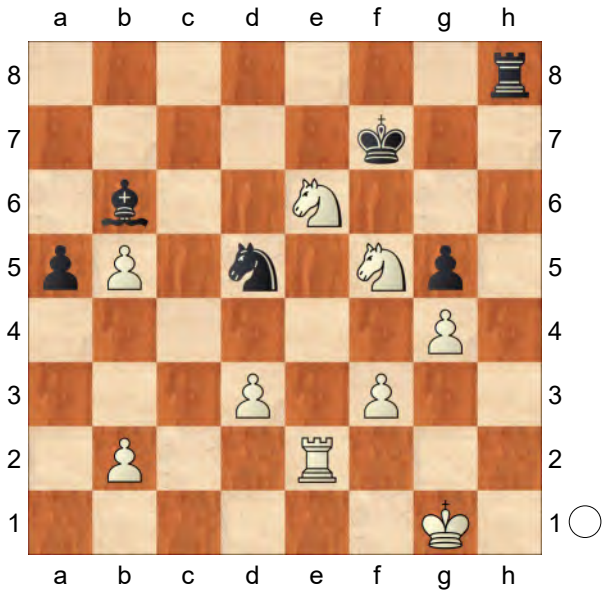
44.Ne6 Bb6+ 6.38/21

[44...Nf4 2.93/20 45.Nxf4 *(45.Nxc7 Nxe2+ 46.Kf2 Nf4±; 45.Nxg5+ Kg6±)* 45...Bxf4]

(Diagram)

45.d4 Kf6 46.Nc5 Nf4 47.Nd7+ Kg6 48.Ne5+ 4.18/24

[⌓48.Re7 16.43/22 Nh5 49.Re6+ *(49.Nxb6 Rf8+-; 49.gxh5+ Kxf5*



50.Nxb6 g4+-) 49...Kf7 50.Rxb6]

48...Kf6 49.Nd7+? 0.01/5

[White should play 49.Re4+- 4.69/21 Black must now prevent Ne5-d7+. Rd8 50.Nc4]

49...Kg6= 50.Re7

Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.30

1-0

C27

□ **Rapport,Richard** **2752**

■ **Galperin,Platon** **2566**

World-chT Rapid (9) 28.08.2023

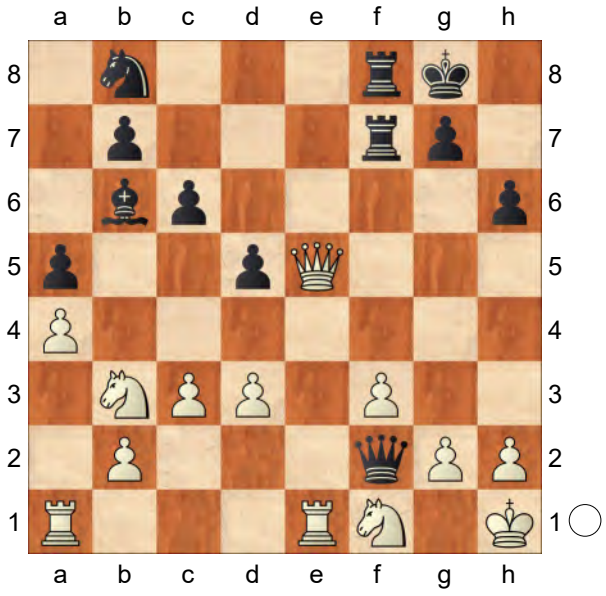
[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 0-0 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 c6 7.a4

[7.h3 Nbd7 8.a3 Bb6 9.Ba2 Re8 10.Re1 Nf8 11.Be3 Be6 12.d4 Bxa2 13.Rxa2 exd4 14.Bxd4 Ba5 15.b4 Bb6 16.Ra1 Ne6 17.Bxb6 axb6 18.a4 Qc7 19.Qd3 Rad8 20.Rad1 Nf4 21.Qd2 Ne6 Kostka,V (2694)-Roehrich,S (2735) Sarajevo 1999 (7) ½-½]

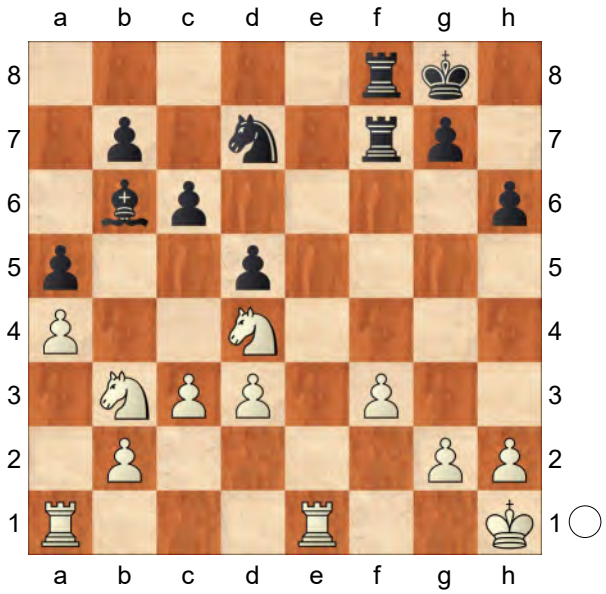
7...a5 8.Kh1N The position is equal.
[8.h3 Re8 9.Be3 Bxe3 10.fxe3 Be6 11.Bxe6 Rxe6 12.Rf2 Nbd7 13.b3 h6 14.Qe2 Qb6 15.Raf1 Rae8 16.Kh2 Qb4 17.Qd2 Nh7 18.Qe1 Bellmann,H (2471)-Perez,N (2295) corr SM-2010-0-00099 ½-½]
8...Na6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Ne2 Qe8 13.c3 Ba7 14.Bxf6 Rxf6 15.Ng3 Rf7 16.Qe2 Qe7 17.Nd2 Raf8 18.f3 d5 White is weak on the dark squares **19.Rfe1 Qh4 20.Nb3 Bb6 21.Nf1 Nb8** 0.36/20
[21...Re7= -0.28/16]
22.exd5± exd5 23.Qxe5 Qf2



24.Nfd2! Bc7 1.00/21
[Black should try 24...Nd7± 0.43/21 25.Qe2 Qh4]
25.Qd4± Qxd4 26.Nxd4 Bb6 27.N2b3 Nd7

(Diagram)

28.Re2! g5 29.g4 h5 30.Nf5 Excellent horsemanship. **30...Rh7** Wards off Nf5-h6+ **31.Kg2** White is more active. **31...Nf6** 2.19/22

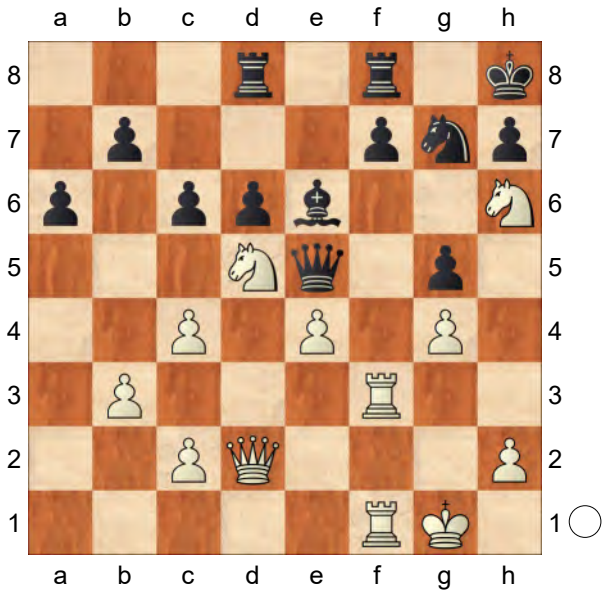


[31...hxg4± 0.99/23 32.fxg4 Nf6]
32.h3+- hxg4 33.hxg4
[33.fxg4 Nh5 34.gxh5 *(34.Ne7+ Rxe7 35.Rxe7 Rf2+ 36.Kg1 Re2+ 37.d4 Rxe7∓)* 34...Rxf5±]
33...d4 34.c4 Repels Nf6-d5
[34.Nfxd4 Nd5 35.Re5 *(35.Ne6? Re8-+)* 35...Nf4+ 36.Kg1 Nh3+ 37.Kf1 Nf4=]
34...Bc7 35.Rh1 Against Rh7-h2+
[35.Nfxd4 Rh2+ 36.Kg1 Rxe2 37.Nxe2 Nd7±]
35...Rxh1 36.Kxh1 Bf4 37.Re7 Prevents Nf6-d7.
[37.Nfxd4 Rd8 38.Kg2 b6+-]
37...b5 38.axb5 cxb5 39.cxb5
[39.Nxa5 bxc4 40.Nxc4 Rb8 41.Rg7+ *(41.Nxd4 Rd8+-)* 41...Kh8+-]
39...Rc8 40.Re2 Inhibits Rc8-c2.
[40.Nxa5 Rc1+ 41.Kg2 Nd5±]
[40.Nfxd4?! a4+-]
40...Nd5 41.Nbxd4 Hoping for Nd4-c6.
[Inferior is 41.Nxa5 Rc1+ 42.Kg2 Bc7 43.Re8+ Kf7=]
41...Kf7? 3.31/22
[41...Rc1+ 1.65/20 42.Kg2 Rd1]
42.Kg2 Rh8 43.Kg1 Bc7 44.Ne6

Threatens to win with Ne6xc7! **44...Bb6+** 6.03/21
[44...Nf4 2.85/21 45.Nxf4 *(45.Nxc7 Nxe2+ 46.Kf1 Nf4±; 45.Nxg5+ Kg6±)* 45...Bxf4]
45.d4 Kf6 46.Nc5 Nf4 47.Nd7+ Kg6 48.Ne5+? 3.66/24
[48.Re7 16.32/22 Bxd4+ 49.Nxd4]
48...Kf6 49.Nd7+? 0.01/5
[White should play 49.Rd2+- 4.53/23 Bxd4+ 50.Nxd4 Nh3+ 51.Kf1 Kxe5 52.Nc6+ Kf4 53.b6 *(53.Nxa5 Kg3+-)* 53...Kxf3 54.Rd8 *(54.Nxa5 Nf4=)*]
49...Kg6= 50.Re7
Weighted Error Value: White=0.43/ Black=0.37
1-0

C28
□ **Esipenko,Andrey** **2723**
■ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2750**
Berlin FIDE GP 3 Pool-A (6) 28.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

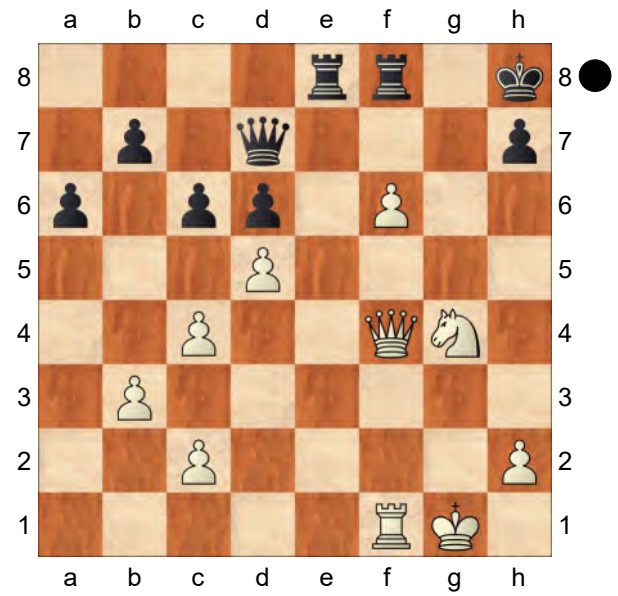
C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Na5 5.Qf3 Nxc4 6.dxc4 d6 7.Nge2 Be6 8.b3 The position is equal. **8...Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.a4**
[10.h3 Ne8 11.Ng3 g6 12.Bh6 Ng7 13.Rad1 Bg5 14.Bxg5 Qxg5 15.Nb5 Qe7 16.Qe3 f5 17.exf5 Nxf5 18.Nxf5 Rxf5 19.Nc3 Raf8 20.Qxa7 b6 21.Qb7 Qf7 22.Ne4 Rf4 23.Ng5 Bc8 24.Qxc8 Rxc8 Hernandez Molina,D (2522)-Die Nordische Vert (2247) Antalya 90/(24) 2004 (8) ½-½]
10...Nd7 11.a5N
[11.Ng3 Bg5 12.Nf5 Bxc1 13.Raxc1 g6 14.Ne3 a5 15.Rcd1 Nc5 16.Qg3 Qf6 E1) 1.e4 e5 Without 2.Nf3 –-Bishop's Opening 2.Bc4 –]
11...a6 12.Ng3 Bg5 13.Nf5 Bxc1 14.Raxc1 g6 15.Ne3 c6 16.Ra1 Qe7 17.Qd1 0.00/25
[17.Rad1± 0.37/23]
17...Rad8= 18.Qd2 Nf6 19.f4 exf4 20.Rxf4 Nh5 21.Rf3 Qg5 22.Raf1 Qxa5 23.g4 Ng7 Threatens to win with ...Be6-c8. **24.Nf5! Qe5 25.Nh6+!** Excellent horsemanship. **25...Kh8 26.Nd5 g5** 0.99/20
[26...cxd5= 0.18/22 27.exd5 Bxg4 28.Nxg4 Qe4]



27.Qf2 0.27/22 **f5 28.gxf5 Bxd5 29.exd5** Strongly threatening f5-f6. **29...Nh5 30.Re1 Qg7 31.Ng4 Nf4 32.f6 Qd7 33.Rxf4 gxf4 34.Qxf4 Rde8** Wards off Re1-e7 **35.Rf1** -1.63/22
[35.Rxe8= 0.00/22 and White is okay. Qxe8 36.dxc6 *(36.Qxd6 Rg8=)* 36...bxc6 37.Kf2 *(37.Qxd6? Rg8-+)*]

(Diagram)

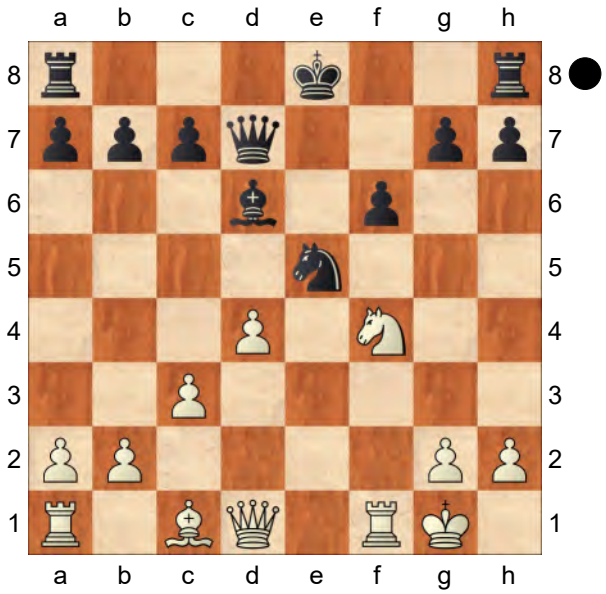
35...Qf7!-+ ...Qf7-g6 is the strong threat.
36.Kh1 -2.52/22



[36.Qxd6? Qg6 37.Qg3 h5-+]
[36.dxc6∓ -1.51/19 bxc6 37.Rf3]
36...Qg6? -0.93/18
[36...cxd5-+ -2.52/22 and Black stays clearly on top. 37.c5 dxc5]
37.Rg1? -4.65/20
[37.c5∓ -0.93/18 cxd5 38.cxd6 Qe4+ *(38...Qxc2? too greedy. 39.d7+-)* 39.Qxe4 Rxe4 40.Nh6]
37...h5
[37...Qxc2? loses. 38.Nh6+-]
38.Ne3 Rxf6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.10 (very precise)
0-1

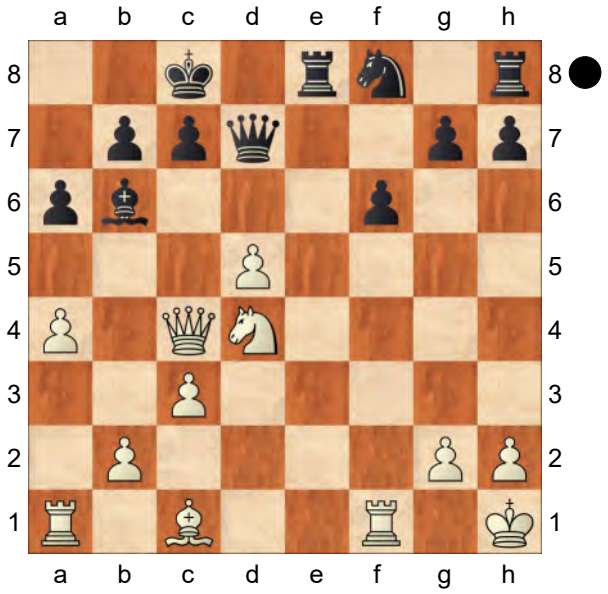
C28
□ **Andreikin,Dmitry** **2724**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2771**
Belgrade FIDE GP 2 KO (1.3) 11.03.2022
[GM Papaioannou,MH]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Nge2
[5.Bd2 White can surprise us with this move but we simply play d6 *(5...Bxc3 6.Bxc3 d5)*]
5...d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Be6 8.Bxd5 Bxd5 9.f4 f6 10.fxe5 Nxd5 Qxd5 first is the same.
[10.Nxd5 simplifies Qxd5 11.fxe5 Nxe5 12.d4]
10...Nxe5 11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.Nf4
[12.d4 0-0-0 13.c3 Bd6 14.Bf4 Nc4 1.27/18 Black has equalized. *(14...Nf7= 0.04/20* keeps the balance. *)*]
12...Qd7 13.c3 Bd6 After c3 our bishop most likely goes to ...d6 **14.d4**

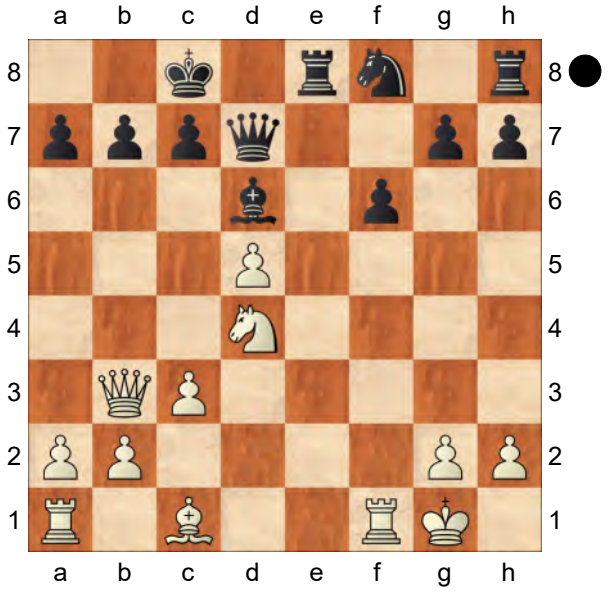


0-0-0! It's important to remember this move intending ...Bc5 **15.Qb3N**
[15.h3 Ng6]
[15.dxe5 Bc5+ Bishop,S-N,N 2019]
15...Ng6∓
[15...Ng4 16.h3 Nh6 17.Ne6+-]
16.Ne6 -0.94/26
[16.h3∓ -0.38/22]
16...Rde8∓ 17.d5 Nf8 18.Nd4
[18.Nxf8 Rhxf8 19.Bd2? -2.99/19 *(19.Qc4∓* -1.45/22 might work better. *)* 19...Re2 Black can next play Rde8-Qg4. White has many weaknesses.]
18...Ng6 -0.43/20

[18...Bc5∓ 19.Qc4 Bb6! 20.a4 a6 21.Kh1



Re4! Hoping for ...Nf8-g6. 22.Bf4 Ng6 23.Bg3 h5∓ Black is better.]
[18...Bc5∓ -1.18/25 Strongly threatening ...Re8-e5. 19.Qc4 Bb6]
19.Ne6∓ Nf8 20.Nd4



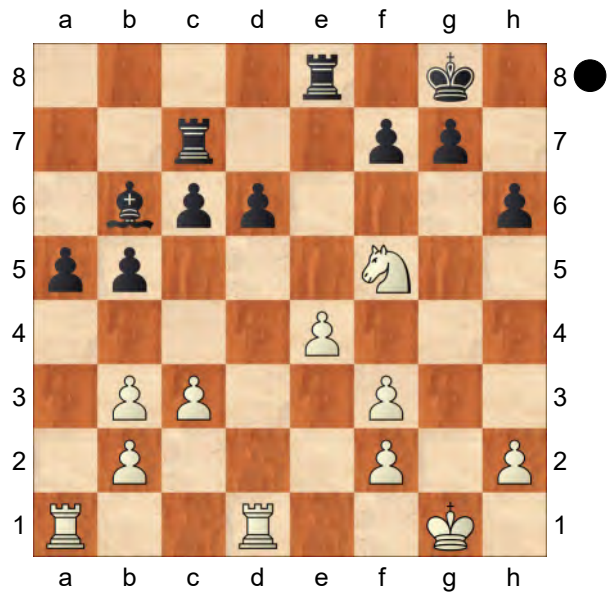
Ng6 -0.08/25 Prevents Bc1-f4.
[20...Qg4!∓ -1.19/23 ...Nf8-g6 would now be deadly. 21.Qd1 Qxd1 22.Rxd1 Re4]
21.Ne6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.25 (precise)
½-½

C28
□ **Zvjaginsev,Vadim** **2540**
■ **Puranik,Abhimanyu Sameer** **2639**
Vladivostok Eastern Economic Forum rapid (6)
[Kitty Kat]

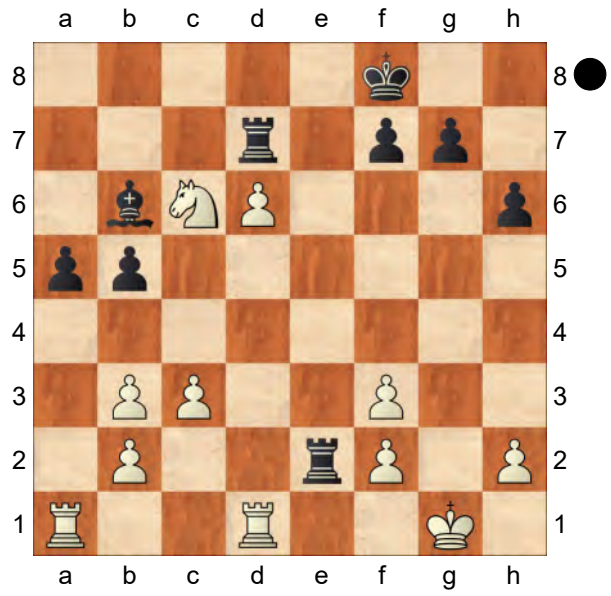
C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Na5 5.Bb3 Bb4 6.Nf3 Nxb3 7.axb3 0-0 8.0-0 d6
[8...Re8 9.Bg5 Bxc3 10.bxc3 h6 11.Bh4 d6 12.h3 Qe7 13.d4 Kh7 14.Qd3 Rg8 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Bg3 Nd7 17.Rfd1 f6 18.Nd2 Nc5 19.Qe2 Be6 20.f3 a6 21.Nf1 Rgd8 22.Bf2 Nd7 23.g4 Aravindh,C (2486)-Carlsen,M (2834) 127/44 Doha 2015 0-1]
9.Bg5N
[9.Ne2 h6 10.Ng3 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.N]
9...c6 Inhibits Nc3-d5. **10.Nd2** -0.54/18
[10.d4= 0.09/19]
10...h6∓ 11.Bh4 a5
[11...g5!? 12.Bg3□ a6∓]
12.Nc4 b5 13.Bxf6 Qxf6
[13...gxf6?! 14.Ne3±]
14.Nb6 Rb8 15.Nxc8 Rbxc8 16.Ne2 Ra8 17.d4 exd4 18.Nxd4 Rfc8 19.c3 Bc5 20.Qd3 Bb6 21.Rfd1 Ra7 22.Qh3 Re8 23.Qf3 Qxf3 24.gxf3 Rc7 25.Nf5

(Diagram)

d5 26.exd5 Re2 0.28/22
[Black should play 26...cxd5 -0.30/21 27.Rd2 Re5]
27.d6↑ White fights for an advantage.



27...Rd7 28.Ne7+ Kf8 0.41/22
[28...Kh7= -0.01/21]
29.Nxc6



And now Rd1-d5 would win. **29...Rxf2 30.Kh1 f6** Wards off Nc6-e5 **31.Nb8 Rd8 32.Nc6 Rd7** 0.62/20
[Better is 32...Re8= -0.01/24 33.d7 *(33.Nxa5? perishes. Ree2-+)* 33...Ree2 34.d8Q+ *(34.d8B? Rxh2#; 34.d8R+ Bxd8 35.Rxd8+ Kf7=)* 34...Bxd8 35.Rxd8+ Kf7]
33.Nb8 0.01/24
[Much worse is 33.Nxa5 Bc5=]
[White should try 33.Rd5± 0.62/20]
33...Rd8 34.Nc6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)
½-½

		C41
□	**Dubov,Daniil**	**2707**
■	**Sankalp,Gupta**	**2532**

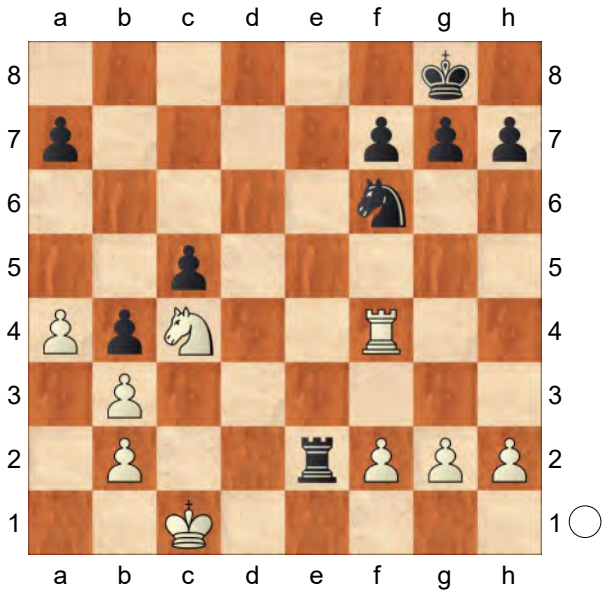
Chess.com Classic Play In rapid (4)
[Kitty Kat]

C41: Philidor Defence
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.d4 exd4N
[4...Bb4 5.dxe5 Nxe4 6.Qg4 *(6.Qd4 d5 7.exd6 0-0 8.Be3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Bxd6 10.Nf3 Bf5 11.0-0 Bc7 12.Qc5 Bxc2 13.Qh5 Bg6 14.Qg4 Qd7 15.Qh4 Bd8 16.Bg5 Bxg5 17.Qxg5 Qf5 18.Qe7 Qd7 19.Qh4 Qd8 20.Qg3 b5* Hrebenshchykova,Y (2551)-Ten Hagen,Y (2238) Wuerttemberg-ch 1985 (5) 1-0*)* 6...d5 7.Qxg7 Ke7 8.Bg5+ Nxg5 9.Qxg5+ Ke8 10.Qg7 Rf8 11.0-0-0 Odds Ends-Odds and Ends: 2...c6 3. Nc3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Qa5 13.Bd3 Qxc3 14.Ne2 Qa3+ 15.Kd2 Nd7 16.Bxh7 Qa5+ 17.Ke3 Qxa2 18.f4 Qa3+ 19.Kf2 Nc5 20.Nd4 Ne6 21.Nxe6 Bxe6 22.f5 Qc5+ 23.Kg3 Bd7 24.c4 b5 25.cxd5 cxd5 26.h3 16.♘b3 ♖e8 17.♗h6_22038 (2284)-D32 D5 (1962) Rogaska Slatina 2009 1-0]
5.Qxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.a4 0-0 8.Bf4 Bg4 9.0-0-0 White is much more active. The black rooks are passive. White is slightly better. **9...Qa5** 1.57/19
[⌓9...Ne8 0.74/20]
10.Bxd6± Bxd6 11.Qxd6 Strongly

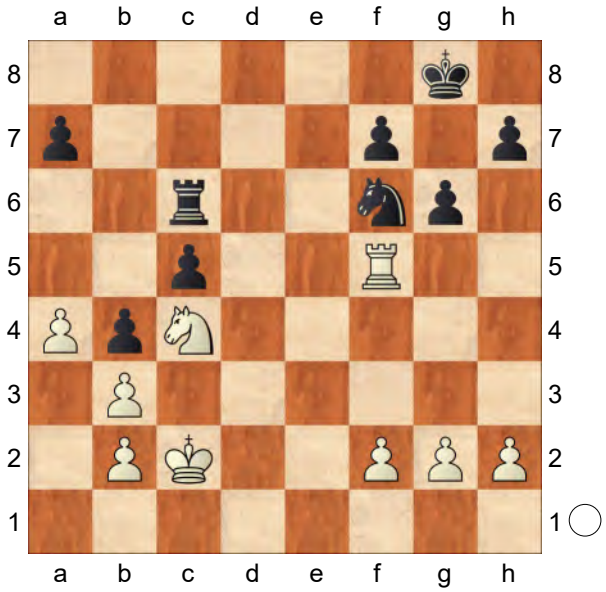
threatening e4-e5. **11...Nbd7 12.Qf4** 0.08/17
[12.Rd4± 1.52/19]
12...b5!= 13.Bb3
[13.e5!? bxc4 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Rd6 Bxf3 16.gxf3±]
13...b4 1.02/22
[13...bxa4!= 0.06/19 14.Nxa4 *(14.Bxa4 Nc5∓)* 14...Nc5 15.Nxc5 Qa1+ 16.Kd2 Qa5+ 17.Ke2 Qxc5]
14.Ne2 Nc5 1.40/19
[⌓14...Rae8 0.89/20]
15.Ned4↑ White is on the roll.
15...Ncxe4 16.Rhe1
[16.Nxc6?! Qc5±]
16...Nc5 17.Re5 0.57/21
[Not 17.Nxc6 Nxb3+ 18.Kb1 *(18.cxb3? Rac8∓)* 18...Qxa4 19.Ne7+ Kh8 20.cxb3 Qxb3∓]
[White should try 17.h3± 1.47/22 Bxf3 18.Qxf3]
17...Qc7±
[17...Nxb3+ 18.cxb3 Qc7 19.Nf5 Bxf3 20.Qg5±]
18.Nf5 Hoping for Nf5xg7!
[18.Rf5 simplifies Qxf4+ 19.Rxf4 Rac8 20.Re1]
18...Bxf5 19.Rxf5 Nxb3+! 20.cxb3 Qxf4+ 21.Rxf4 c5 22.Ne5 Rfe8 23.Nc4 0.37/24
[White should play 23.Nd3± 1.27/24]
23...Re2 24.Rd2 0.10/23
[24.Rf5± 0.47/26]
24...Rae8 0.87/23
[24...Re1+= 0.10/23 keeps the balance. 25.Kc2 Ne4]
25.Rxe2± Rxe2 Endgame.

(Diagram)

KRN-KRN **26.Kd1** 0.31/25
[26.Rf5!± 0.80/23]
26...Re6± 27.Rf5 Rc6 28.Kc2 g6



1.47/26
[28...Kf8± 0.53/20]



29.Re5 0.32/19
[Only move: 29.Na5!± 1.47/26 Re6 30.Rxc5]
29...Kf8 30.f3 Nd7 31.Rd5 Ke7 32.Nd2 Re6 33.Ne4 The position is equal. **33...f5 34.Rxd7+** Remove Defender, Decoy **34...Kxd7 35.Nxc5+ Kd6 36.Nxe6 Kxe6=** KP-KP **37.Kd3 Kd5 38.a5 a6 39.Ke3 g5 40.g4 fxg4 41.fxg4 Ke5! 42.Kd3**

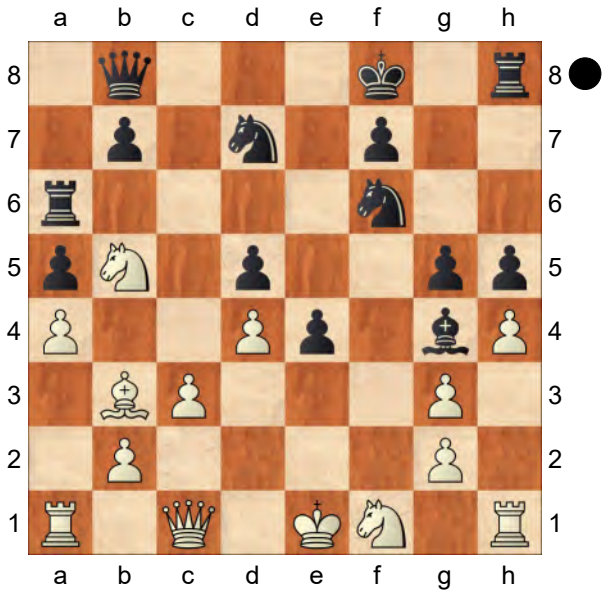
Kd3-c4 would now be deadly. **42...Kd5** **43.Ke3** Ke3-d3 is the strong threat.
[43.h3!?]
43...Ke5! **44.Kd3** Black must now prevent Kd3-c4. **44...Kd5** **45.Ke3** Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)
[45.h3!?]
½-½

C24
□ **Salman,Fatima** **2802**
■ **Burry,S** **2576**
EU-ch 12th Aix les Bains (3) 26.12.2022
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 a5 Hoping for ...a5-a4. **6.a4 Bb4+ 7.c3 Bd6 8.exd5** The position is equal. **8...cxd5 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Na3 Nbd7 11.Nb5 Bb8 12.Bh4N**
[12.d4 e4 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nf1 h6 15.Bh4 Bf4 16.h3 Re8 17.g3 Bb8 18.g4 Nf8 19.Ne3 Ng6 20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Bxd5 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Qg5 23.c4 Bf4 24.Qb3 h5 25.Ne3 Qh4 26.gxh5 Qxh5 Gazi,M (2804)-Panov Botvinnik Attack (2773) TCh-Playoffs 2001 (2) 0-1]
12...Ra6 13.d4 e4 14.Nd2 Bf4 15.Nf1 Kf8 16.Ne3 -0.49/20
[16.Bg3= 0.04/19 Bxg3 17.hxg3]
16...g5∓ 17.Bg3 h5 18.h4 Bxg3 19.fxg3 Qb8 20.Nf1 -1.13/21
[20.Kf2∓ -0.65/20 was preferrable.]
20...Bg4 21.Qc1

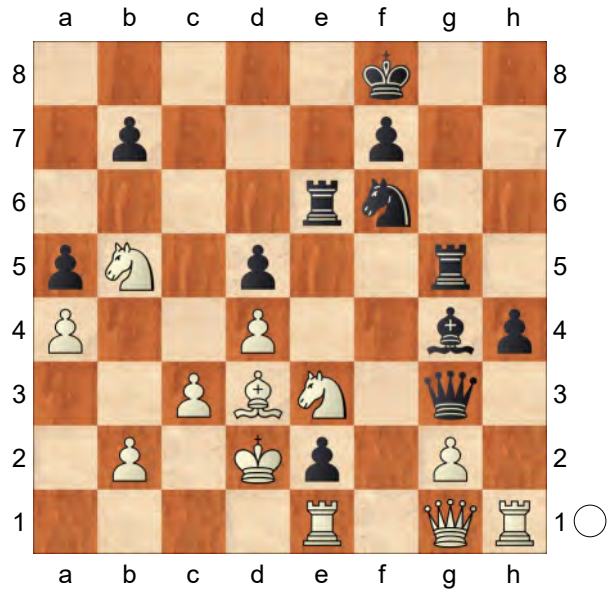
(Diagram)

e3! -0.26/20 **22.hxg5= e2** -0.01/22
[22...h4!∓ -0.53/22 23.gxf6 Nxf6]

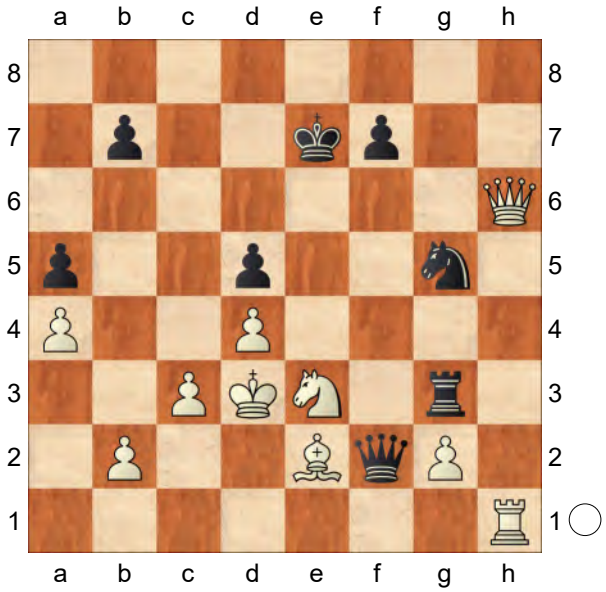


23.gxf6 Rxf6 24.Ne3
[24.Bxd5 exf1Q+ 25.Rxf1 Qe8+ *(25...Qxg3+ 26.Kd2 Rf2+ 27.Rxf2 Qxf2+ 28.Kd3 Qe2#; 25...Qxg3+ 26.Kd2 Rf2+ 27.Rxf2 Qxf2+ 28.Kd3 Qe2#)*]
24...Qxg3+ 25.Kd2 And now Qc1-g1! would win. **25...Re6** 0.41/24
[25...Rf2= -0.01/22 feels stronger. 26.Qe1 Nf6 27.Bxd5 Nxd5 28.Nxd5 Rh6 *(28...Qxg2? 29.Ne3+-)*]
26.Qg1!±
[26.Nxd5? e1N 27.Qxe1 Qxg2+ *(27...Rxe1 28.Raxe1 Be6 29.Nbc7∓)* 28.Kc1 Rxe1+ 29.Rxe1 Qf2-+]
26...Nf6 27.Bc2
[27.Bxd5 Nxd5 28.Nxd5 e1R 29.Rxe1 Rxe1 30.Qxe1 Qxg2+ 31.Kc1 Qxd5∓]
[27.Nxd5? Ne4+ *(27...Nxd5 28.Bxd5 Qf4+ 29.Kd3±)* 28.Kc1 Nf2-+]
27...Rg8 1.47/22
[⌓27...Kg7 1.04/20 28.Bf5 Qxe3+ *(28...Ne4+? 29.Bxe4 Rhe8 30.Nxg4+-)* 29.Qxe3 Rxe3 30.Kxe3 Bxf5]

28.Re1± Rg5 1.70/20
[28...h4± 1.32/20 29.Bd3 Ne4+ 30.Bxe4 Rxe4]
29.Bd3 1.32/19
[Better is 29.Na3+- 1.70/20]
29...h4 2.77/22
[29...Ne4+± 1.32/19 30.Bxe4 Rxe4 31.Nxg4 Qxg4]



Black cannot hold the game after this.
30.Na3!+-
[30.Bxe2 Rxe3 31.Qxe3 Ne4+ 32.Kd3 Nf2+ 33.Kd2 Ne4+ 34.Kd3 Nf2+ 35.Kd2 Ne4+=]
30...Bh5 31.Nac2
[31.Bxe2 Rxe3 32.Qxe3 Ne4+ 33.Kd3 Nf2+ 34.Kd2 Ne4+ 35.Kd3 Nf2+ 36.Kd2 Ne4+=]
31...Qf4? 4.23/23
[31...Ne4+ 32.Bxe4 Rxe4 33.Rh2+- *(33.Qh2 Qxh2 34.Rxh2 b6±)*]
[31...Kg8 2.55/20 32.Qh2 *(32.Bxe2 Kg7+-)* 32...Ne4+ 33.Bxe4 Remove Defender Rxe4 34.Qxg3 hxg3]
32.Qh2
[32.Bxe2 Ne4+ 33.Kc1 Ng3+-]
32...Rg3 33.Qxh4
[33.Bxe2 Rexe3 34.Nxe3 Qxe3+ 35.Kc2 Qe4+ *(35...Bxe2? 36.Qxh4 Rxg2 37.Kb1-+)* 36.Kb3 Bxe2-+]
33...Qf2 34.Rxe2
[34.Rh3 Rexe3=]
34...Bxe2 35.Bxe2 Rh1-f1 would now be deadly. **35...Rexe3 36.Qh6+** Zwischenzug, Double Attack **36...Ke7?** 8.25/25
[36...Ke8 2.97/22 37.Nxe3 Ng8]
37.Nxe3 White is clearly winning.
37...Ne4+ 38.Kd3 Ng5



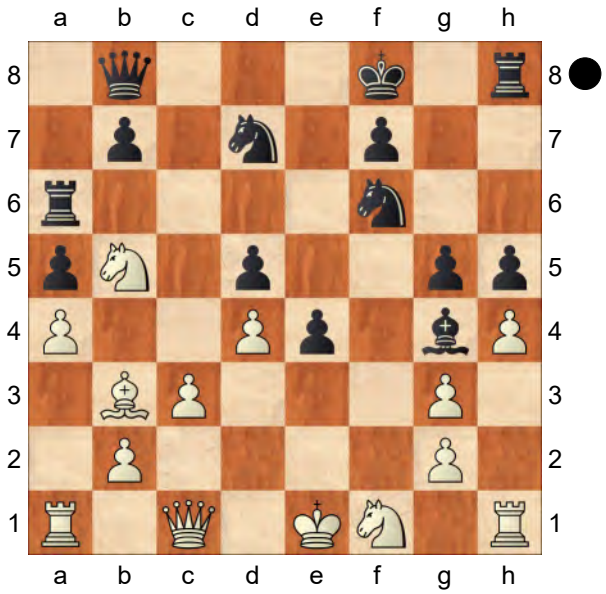
39.Bf3! Nxf3 40.Nf5+ Ke8 41.Nxg3
[41.gxf3 Qxf3+ 42.Kc2 *(42.Ne3 Qf5+ 43.Ke2 Qf3+ 44.Kd2 Qf2+ 45.Kc1 Rxe3=)* 42...Qxf5+ 43.Kb3 Qe4±]
41...Qxg2 42.Qe3+ Kd7 43.Rf1
Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.32
1-0

C24
□ **Rapport,Richard** 2802
■ **Aravindh,Chithambaram V R** 2576
Wch Rapid Almaty (3) 26.12.2022
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 a5 And now ...a5-a4 would win. **6.a4 Bb4+ 7.c3 Bd6 8.exd5** The position is equal. **8...cxd5 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Na3 Nbd7 11.Nb5 Bb8 12.Bh4N**
[12.d4 e4 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nf1 h6 15.Bh4 Bf4 16.h3 Re8 17.g3 Bb8 18.g4 Nf8 19.Ne3 Ng6 20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Bxd5 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Qg5 23.c4 Bf4 24.Qb3 h5 25.Ne3 Qh4 26.gxh5 Qxh5 Gazi,M (2804)-Panov Botvinnik Attack (2773) TCh-Playoffs 2001 (2) 0-1]
12...Ra6 13.d4 e4 14.Nd2 Bf4 15.Nf1 Kf8 16.Ne3 -0.62/21
[16.Bg3!= 0.23/18 Bxg3 17.hxg3]
16...g5∓ 17.Bg3 h5 18.h4 Bxg3 19.fxg3 Qb8 20.Nf1 -1.25/22
[⌓20.Kf2 -0.79/19]
20...Bg4 -0.71/19
[⌓20...gxh4! -1.25/22 21.Rxh4 Bg4]
21.Qc1∓

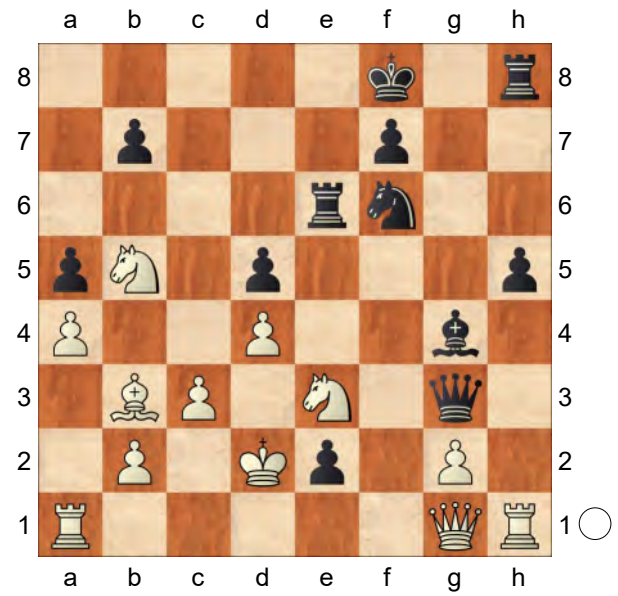
(Diagram)

e3! 22.hxg5 e2! 23.gxf6 Rxf6 24.Ne3 Black must now prevent Ke1-d2.
[24.Bxd5 exf1Q+ 25.Rxf1 Qe8+ *(25...Qxg3+ 26.Kd2 Rf2+ 27.Rxf2 Qxf2+ 28.Kd3 Qe2#; 25...Qxg3+ 26.Kd2 Rf2+ 27.Rxf2 Qxf2+ 28.Kd3 Qe2#)*]
24...Qxg3+ 25.Kd2 Strongly threatening Qc1-g1! **25...Re6** 0.95/23
[25...Rf2= 0.01/20 remains equal.

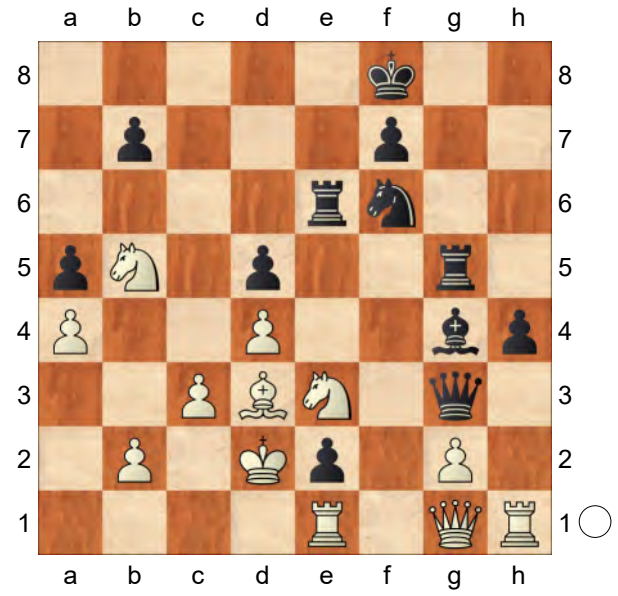


26.Re1 h4 27.Bxd5 h3 *(27...Nf6 28.Nxg4 Nxg4 29.Bc4∓)*]
26.Qg1± Black is on the road to losing.
[26.Nxd5? e1R 27.Qxe1 Qxg2+ *(27...Rxe1 28.Raxe1 Rh6 29.Ne3∓)* 28.Kc1 Rxe1+ 29.Rxe1 Qf2-+]
[26.Nxg4?! Qxg4 27.Nc7 *(27.Bxd5 Qg5+ 28.Kc2 Qxd5∓)* 27...Qg5+ 28.Kc2 Qf5+ 29.Kd2 Qf4+ 30.Kc2 Qe4+ *(30...Qxc7 31.Bxd5 Re8 32.Qg5+-)* 31.Kd2 e1B+ 32.Rxe1 Qxg2+ 33.Kd3 Qf3+ *(33...Qg6+ 34.Kd2=)* 34.Kc2 Qf5+ 35.Kd1 Qg4+ 36.Kc2 Qf5+ *(36...Qg6+ 37.Kd2=)* 37.Kd2 *(37.Kd1 Rxe1+ 38.Kxe1 Qe4+ 39.Kf2 Qh4+ 40.Ke2 Qg4+ 41.Kf2 Qh4+ 42.Kf1 Qh1+ 43.Ke2 Qg2+ 44.Kd1 Qf3+ 45.Ke1 Qg3+ 46.Kd1 Qxc7=)* 37...Qg5+ 38.Kd3 *(38.Kc2 Qg6+ 39.Kd2 Qg5+ 40.Kd3 Qg3+ 41.Kc2 Qg6+ 42.Kd2 Qg2+ 43.Kd1 Rxe1+ 44.Kxe1 Qh1+ 45.Ke2 Qh2+ 46.Kd3 Qg3+ 47.Qe3 Qxc7±)* 38...Qg6+ 39.Kd2 Qg2+ 40.Kd3 Qg6+ 41.Kd2 Qg2+=]
26...Nf6

(Diagram)



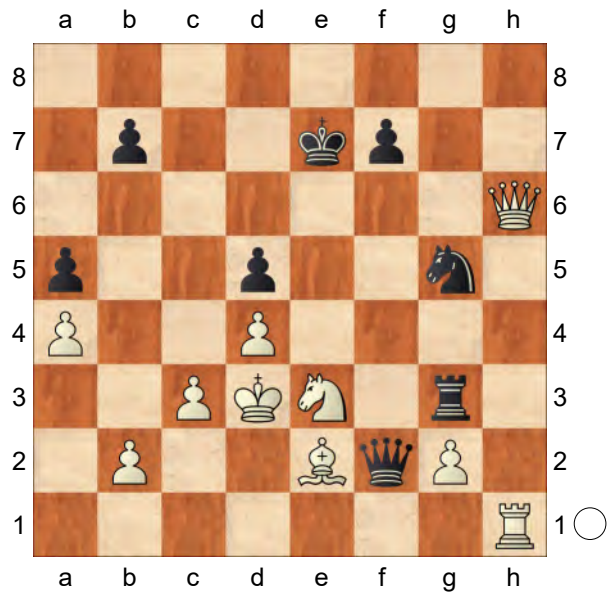
27.Bc2
[27.Bxd5 Nxd5 28.Nxd5 e1R 29.Rxe1 Rxe1 30.Qxe1 Qxg2+ 31.Kc1 Qxd5∓]
[27.Nxd5? Ne4+ *(27...Nxd5 28.Bxd5 Re8 29.Kc2+-)* 28.Kc2 *(28.Kc1? Nc5-+)* 28...Bf5-+]
27...Rg8 28.Re1 Rg5 2.36/21
[28...h4± 1.25/20 was necessary. 29.Bd3 Re7]
29.Bd3 h4



30.Na3!
[30.Bxe2 Rxe3 31.Qxe3 Ne4+ 32.Kd3 Nf2+ 33.Kd2 Ne4+ 34.Kd3 Nf2+ 35.Kd2 Ne4+=]
30...Bh5
[30...Ne4+ 31.Bxe4 Rxe4 32.Nac2+-]
31.Nac2
[31.Bxe2 Rxe3 32.Qxe3 Ne4+ 33.Kd3 Nf2+ 34.Kd2 Ne4+ 35.Kd3 Nf2+ 36.Kd2 Ne4+=]
31...Qf4? 4.28/22
[31...Ne4+ 32.Bxe4 Rxe4 33.Qh2+-]
[31...Kg8 2.56/18 keeps fighting. 32.Qh2 *(32.Bxe2 Ne4+ 33.Kc1 Nf2+-)* 32...Ne4+ 33.Bxe4 Remove Defender Rxe4 34.Qxg3 hxg3 35.Rxe2 *(35.Rxh5 Rxh5 36.Rxe2 Rf4+-)* 35...Re8]
32.Qh2+-
[32.Bxe2 Bxe2 33.Rxe2 Qg3+-]
32...Rg3 33.Qxh4
[33.Bxe2? Rexe3 34.Nxe3 Qxe3+ 35.Kc2 Qe4+ *(35...Bxe2? 36.Qxh4 Rxg2 37.Kb1-+)* 36.Kb3 Bxe2-+]
33...Qf2 34.Rxe2
[34.Rh3 Rexe3=]
34...Bxe2 35.Bxe2 Threatens to win with Rh1-f1. **35...Rexe3 36.Qh6+** Zwischenzug, Double Attack **36...Ke7?** 6.55/23
[36...Ke8 2.40/25 37.Nxe3 Ng8]
37.Nxe3 White is clearly winning.
37...Ne4+ 38.Kd3 Ng5

(Diagram)

39.Bf3! Nxf3 40.Nf5+ Ke8 41.Nxg3
[41.gxf3 Qxf3+ 42.Kc2 *(42.Ne3 Qf5+ 43.Kd2 Qf2+ 44.Kc1 Rxe3=)* 42...Qxf5+ 43.Kb3 Qe4±]
41...Qxg2 42.Qe3+ Kd7 43.Rf1
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.45
1-0



C50

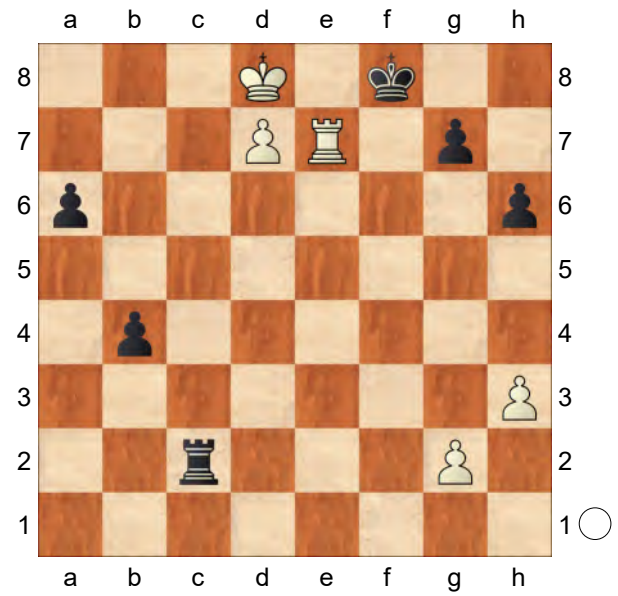
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2865**
■ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi** **2727**
151/106 Wijk aan Zee 2022
[Kitty Kat]

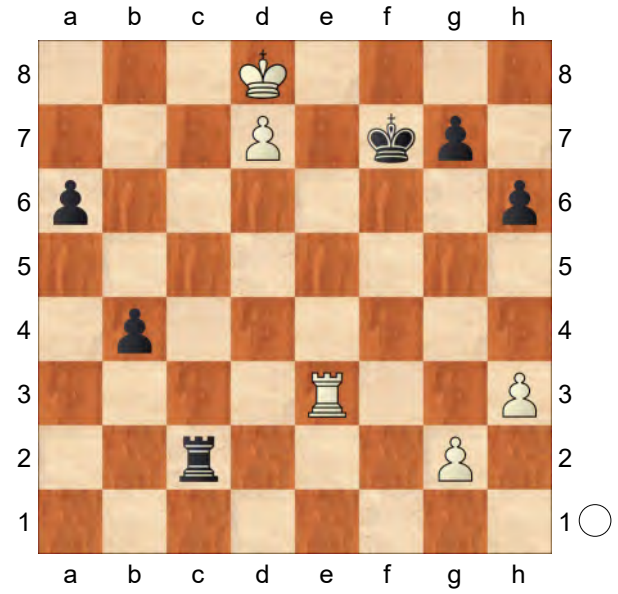
C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bc5N
[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 19.Raxd1 Deschamps,Q (2632)-Lopez Ramirez,D (2436) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (8) 1-0 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 axb4 21.Re7 Rc8 22.a5 Kf8 23.Re4 Na8 24.Rd7 Re8 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.Rxg7 h5 Chigaev,M (2632)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2737) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Feb Late blitz 2023 (5) 0-1]
5.Nc3 h6 6.h3 a6 7.a4 d6 8.Be3 Bxe3 9.fxe3 Be6 10.b3 0-0 11.0-0 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Qd2 Nxc3 14.Qxc3 Threatening Bc4xe6. **14...Qd6 15.Nd2 f5** Prevents Nd2-e4. **16.Bxe6+ Qxe6 17.Qc4 Qxc4 18.bxc4 e4 19.d4 f4** Deflection **20.Rxf4 Rxf4 21.exf4 Nxd4** ...e4-e3 is the strong threat. **22.Nxe4=** Endgame. KRN-KRN **22...Ne2+ 23.Kf2 Nxf4 24.Rb1 b6 25.c5 Rf8 26.cxb6 cxb6 27.c4 Nd5+ 28.Ke2 Re8** 1.16/22
[28...Nf4+± 0.40/22 29.Ke3 Nxg2+ 30.Kd4 Rd8+ 31.Kc3 Rb8]
29.cxd5± Rxe4+ KR-KR **30.Kd3 Rxa4** 2.08/21
[30...Rf4± 1.22/25]
31.d6!+- aiming for d6-d7!
[31.Rxb6 Kf7=]
31...Kf7 32.Re1 White has strong compensation. **32...Ra5 33.Kd4** Repels Ra5-d5+ **33...Ra2 34.Kd5** Hoping for d6-d7. **34...Rd2+ 35.Kc6 b5 36.d7** 0.70/26
[36.Re7+!+- 1.82/24 Kf6 37.Re4 Rc2+ 38.Kb7]
36...Rc2+!± 37.Kb6 Rd2 38.Kc7 Rc2+ 39.Kd8 1.04/23
[39.Kb8± 0.64/27 Rd2 40.Kc7 *(40.Kc8 Rc2+ 41.Kb8 Rd2=)* 40...Rc2+ 41.Kd8]
39...b4± 40.Re7+ 0.01/26
[White should try 40.Rf1+!± 0.97/23 Kg6 *(40...Ke6? 41.Ke8+-)* 41.Rb1]
40...Kf8=

(Diagram)

41.Re3 0.01/23
[41.Re8+!± 0.78/24 Kf7 42.Re7+ Kf8 43.Re8+ Kf7 44.Re7+]
41...Kf7? 2.31/22
[41...a5? 42.Rf3+ Kg8 43.Rf5+-]
[41...g6= 0.01/23]

(Diagram)





42.Re7+? -0.01/22
[42.Rf3+!+- 2.31/22 Kg6 *(42...Ke6? 43.Ke8+-)* 43.Rb3]
42...Kf8 The position is equal. **43.Re5**
[43.Re4!? b3□ 44.Rf4+ Kg8 45.Ke7 *(45.Rb4 b2=)* 45...Re2+ 46.Kd6 Rd2+ 47.Kc7 Rc2+ *(47...Rxg2 48.d8Q+ Kh7 49.Qd3+ Kg8 50.Qd5+ Kh8 51.Qxg2 Kg8 52.Qg6 b2 53.Rf7 Kh8 54.Qxg7#)* 48.Kb6=]
43...g6 Prevents Re5-f5+.
[43...Rxg2? 44.Rf5+ Kg8 45.Rd5+- *(45.Kc8 Rc2+ 46.Kb7 Rd2+-)*]
44.Re6 Black must now prevent Re6-f6+. **44...b3 45.Rf6+**
[45.Rxg6 b2 46.Rf6+ *(46.Rxa6 b1Q 47.Rf6+ Kg7)* 46...Kg7∓]
45...Kg7 46.Ke7 Intending Rf6-f7+ and mate.
[46.Rb6!? b2□ 47.Ke7 Re2+ *(47...Rxg2? loses. 48.d8Q+-)* 48.Kd6 Rd2+ 49.Kc7 Rc2+ *(49...Rxg2 50.d8Q Rc2+ 51.Kb8 b1R 52.Qe7+ Kg8 53.Rxb1 Rf2 54.Rb7 Rf8+ 55.Ka7 Kh8 56.Qxf8#)* 50.Kb7=]
46...Re2+
[Inferior is 46...Rxg2 47.Rf7+ Kh8 48.d8Q#]
47.Re6 Rxe6+ 48.Kxe6 b2 49.d8Q White wants to mate with Qd8-c7+.
49...b1Q 50.Qc7+ Kg8 Threatens to win with ...Qb1-f5+. **51.Qd8+ Kg7** Blacks defense is rewarded with a draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)
½-½

C28
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2729**
■ **Tang,Andrew** **2502**
CrunchLab Masters PlayIn rapid (5)
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.h3
[5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 exf4 7.Bxf4 d6 8.Na4 d5 9.Nxc5 dxc4 10.Qd2 Qe7 11.Na4 cxd3 12.cxd3 Nxe4 13.dxe4 Qxe4+ 14.Qe3 Re8 15.Nc3 Qxe3+ 16.Bxe3 Rxe3+ 17.Kf2 Rd3 18.Rhd1 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Be6 Hanke,L (2777)-Krumpacnik,D (2758) RUS-ch Superfinal 61st 2008 (13.2) 0-1]
5...d6N

[5...Na5 6.Nge2 Nxc4 7.dxc4 d6 8.Qd3 Be6 9.b3 Nd7 10.Be3 a6 11.Bxc5 Nxc5 12.Qe3 0-0 13.g4 c6 14.Rd1 b5 15.f4 Qh4+ 16.Kd2 exf4 17.Nxf4 bxc4 18.Kc1 cxb3 19.axb3 Rfd8 20.g5 Garcia Carey,O (2249)-Berdayes Ason,D (2507) Velez op 10th 2023 (2) 0-1]

6.Na4 Na5 0.59/24

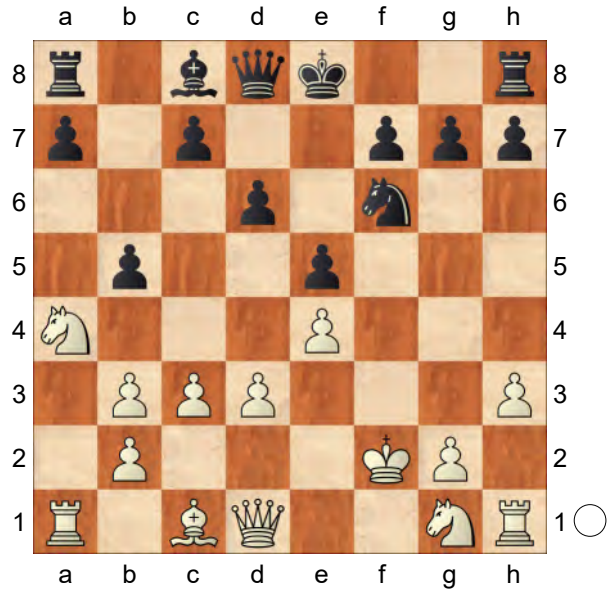
[6...Bb6= 0.17/20]

7.Bb3 0.07/26

[7.Nxc5± 0.59/24 dxc5 8.b3]

7...Bd4= 8.c3 The position is equal.

8...Nxb3 9.axb3 Bxf2+ 10.Kxf2 Black must now prevent c3-c4. **10...b5**



11.Nf3! h6

[11...bxa4 12.Rxa4]

12.Nxe5 Deflection **12...dxe5 13.Nc5 0-0 14.Rf1 Qd6 15.Be3 Rd8** 0.55/24

[15...Nd7= 0.14/24 16.b4 Qg6]

16.b4 Nd7 17.Qh5 Nxc5 18.Bxc5 Qe6 19.Qe2 Black is weak on the dark squares

[19.Rxa7 Rxa7 20.Bxa7 Rxd3±]

[19.Ke3 is more complex. a6 20.g4 f6 21.Qg6]

19...a6 20.Kg1 Qg6 21.Rf3 Be6 22.Qf2 And now Rf3-g3 would win.

22...Kh7 23.Rg3 Qh5 24.d4 Threatens to win with d4-d5. **24...c6 25.Be7↑** White has the initiative.

25...Re8 26.Bd6 f6 1.58/20

[26...exd4± 0.59/18 27.cxd4 *(27.Qxd4 f6=)* 27...f6]

27.dxe5± White is more active. **27...fxe5 28.Qc5 Bd7** 2.24/21

[28...Bc4± 1.57/20]

29.Rf1+- Bd6-f8 would now be deadly.

29...Rg8 30.Kh2

[30.Qxe5 Qxe5 31.Bxe5 Rae8±]

[30.Bxe5 Rae8 31.Bd6 Qxc5+ 32.Bxc5 Be6]

30...Rae8? 5.46/22

[30...Rac8 2.08/21 is tougher. 31.Be7 *(31.Qxe5 Qxe5 32.Bxe5 Rce8±; 31.Bxe5 Rce8±)* 31...Qe2]

31.Qa7 Be6 32.Qxa6? 0.61/22

[Better is 32.Bf8+- 5.75/23 Rexf8 33.Rxf8 Bxh3 34.gxh3 *(34.Rxh3 Qxh3+ 35.Kxh3 Rxf8+-)*]

32...Qe2± 33.Rff3 Qxe4 34.Re3 0.10/22

[White should play 34.Qa7± 0.65/25 Bf5 35.Qc5]

34...Qd5= 35.Rd3

[35.Bxe5? is the wrong capture. Bc8 *(35...Bxh3 36.gxh3 Rxe5 37.Rxe5=)* 36.c4 Qxe5 *(36...Rxe5?* perishes. *37.cxd5 Bxa6 38.Rxe5+-)* 37.Qxc6 Qxe3 38.Rxe3 Rxe3-+]

35...Qe4 36.Qa7 Qf5? 5.30/23

[36...Bd5= 0.17/20 and Black stays safe.]

37.Rdf3+- Qh5

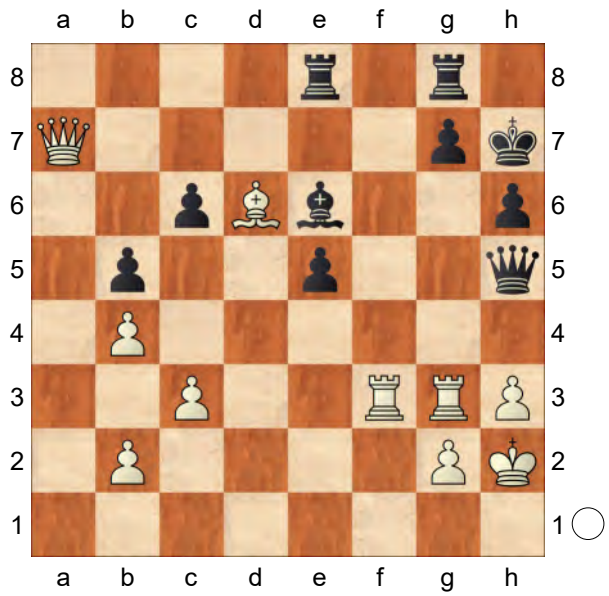
(Diagram)

38.Bf8! Bd5

[38...Qg5 39.Rxg5]

39.Rxg7+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.22



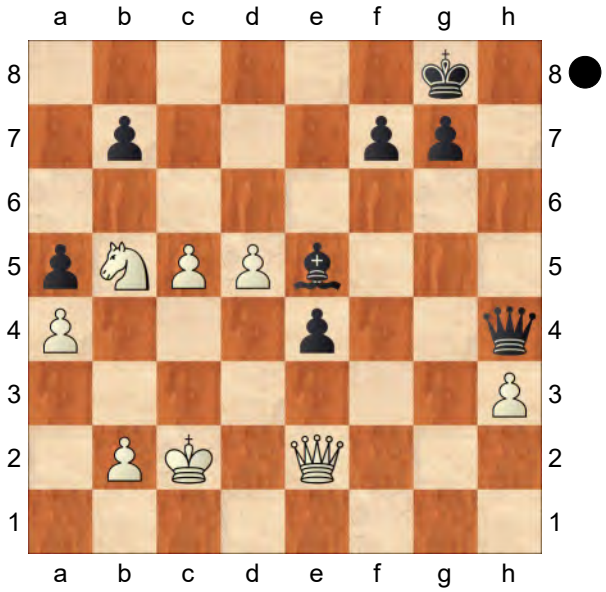
(precise) /Black=0.67
1-0

C24

□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2759**
■ **So,Wesley** **2772**
Aimchess US Rapid KO 2021 (1.11)
[John Emms,MH]

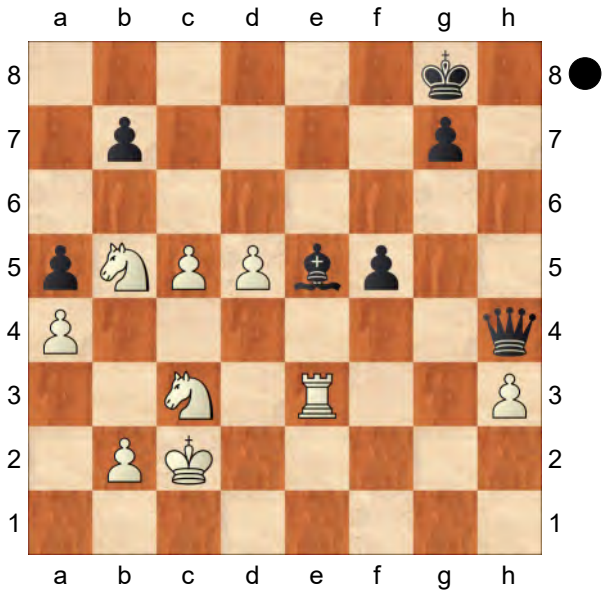
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 a5 Strongly threatening ...a5-a4. **6.a4 Bb4+** Wesley So chooses to allow the e4-e5 line. **7.c3 Bd6 8.exd5** The position is equal. **8...cxd5 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Na3 Nbd7**
[10...Nc6 11.Nb5 which leads to a decisive advantage for White. For example, Bb8]
11.Nb5 Bb8 12.d4 e4 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nf1 This is the point of Firouzja's move order - White gains the option of capturing on b5 with the knight. So far, this idea has had very few tests over the board but has been tried in numerous correspondence games. **14...h6!?** So's choice allows White to get a strong knight on d6, but in return Black gains significant counterplay. **15.Bh4 Bf4 16.h3 Re8**
[16...g5!? 17.Bg3□ Nb6=]
17.g3 -0.32/22 Preventing ...Qe3 and preparing a4-a5.
[17.Qe2= 0.22/22]
17...Bb8∓ 18.g4! Just in time, otherwise ... Ncd3+ would be killing. **18...Nf8 19.Ne3! Ng6 20.Bxf6N** -0.80/21
[20.Bg3!= -0.10/24 keeps the balance.]
20...Qxf6∓ 21.Bxd5! This rook sacrifice looks like amazingly creative play from Firouzja, but actually we are following a previously played correspondence game.
21...Bxd5 This is forced.
[21...Nf4 22.Bxb7 Nd3+ 23.Kd2 Bf4! 24.Bxa8= Firouzja missed an opportunity with 24...Rxa8!]
[21...Nf4 feels hotter. 22.Bxb7 Nd3+ 23.Kd2 Bf4]
22.Nxd5 Qg5 Finally we have the first new move of the game, and it's one that should lose! **23.c4 Bf4** 0.89/23 Now Black is back in the game. Dodges Qd1-d2
[23...Nf4]
[23...Nf4∓ -0.63/20 keeps the upper hand. 24.Nbc3 e3 25.fxe3 Ng2+ 26.Kd2 Nxe3 27.Nxe3 Rxe3]
24.Qb3 -0.25/22
[24.Qe2! e3 25.Kd1]
[24.Qe2!± 0.89/23]
24...h5 0.55/20
[24...Qh4! and it's Black who is pushing. ...e4-e3 is the strong threat. 25.Ne3! is objectively best. Rad8]
[24...Rad8= -0.25/22 25.Kd1 Rc8]
25.Ne3!± Excellent horsemanship.
25...Qh4! 26.gxh5 Qxh5 27.Qd1!? Qh6 28.Nf5 0.16/19
[28.Qe2± 0.83/22]

28...Qh7!=
[28...Qg5 1.33/18 28...Qh6-h7 0.07 29.Qg4]
29.Qg4! Ignoring the knight in the corner and pressing on with the kingside attack. Wards off Ng6-h4 **29...Ra6** 0.58/20
[29...e3!]
[29...e3!= 0.16/19]
30.Kd1 -0.06/20
[30.h4! aiming for Nb5-c3. Rf6 31.Nc3!]
[30.h4± 0.58/20]
30...Rf6 31.Re1 -0.65/20
[31.Rg1= -0.08/20]
31...Nf8! Otherwise Bh5 was coming. Black has compensation.
[31...Bb8 keeps more tension. 32.Rg1 Kf8 33.Ra3 Ne5]
32.Ne3 Bb8 33.Qe2 -0.83/22
[33.Rf1!∓ -0.41/22]
33...Qh4 -0.41/20
[33...Rf3!∓ -0.83/22 34.Ra3 Qh4 *(34...Qxh3 35.Nd5=; 34...Rxh3 35.Kc2=)*]
34.Rf1!∓ Rf3 White must now prevent ... Nf8-e6! **35.Kc2 Ne6↑** Black is pushing.
[35...Rxh3? 36.d5∓]
36.Nd5 Inhibits Ne6-f4. **36...Ng5** 0.25/23
[36...Rxh3∓ -0.35/20 37.Rae1 Qg5]
37.Rae1
[37.Ra3! was So's idea:]
37...Re6
[37...Nxh3 38.Qxf3 exf3 39.Rxe8+ Kh7 40.Rxb8±]
38.Ndc3 Ref6 39.Nd1 -0.97/22
[39.Nd5= 0.25/23 remains equal. Re6 40.Ndc3]
39...R3f4 -0.34/20
[39...Rxh3?]
[39...Qxh3?! 40.Kb1=]
[39...Rxh3∓ -0.97/22 ...Rf6-f4 would now be deadly. 40.c5 Nf3 41.Qxe4 Nxe1+ 42.Rxe1 Qxe4+ 43.Rxe4 Kf8]
40.Qe3 -1.43/18
[Better is 40.Kb1∓ -0.34/20]
40...Nf3!∓
[40...Nxh3 41.Rh1 Rxf2+ *(41...Rh6 42.d5±)* 42.Nxf2 Qxf2+ 43.Kb1 Qxe3 44.Rxe3±]
[40...Qxh3 41.Qxh3 Nxh3 42.Re2=]
41.d5 -1.92/22
[41.Kb1∓ -1.45/19]
41...Be5
[41...Qxh3 42.Kb1 Rh4 43.Rh1]
42.c5 Nxe1+ 43.Rxe1 Rxf2+! 44.Nxf2 Rf3 -0.46/21
[44...Rxf2+ 45.Re2 Rxe2+! is a demonstration of the number of hidden resources there are for both sides in this position. 46.Qxe2



Qf4! Against Qe2-e3 47.d6 e3]
[44...Qxf2+?! 45.Re2 Qxe3 46.Rxe3 Rf2+ 47.Kd1∓]
[44...Rxf2+-+ -1.69/25 45.Re2 Rxe2+ 46.Qxe2 e3 47.Qxe3 Qxa4+ 48.b3 Qxb5 49.Qxe5 Qxc5+ 50.Kd3 Qa3 51.Qe8+ *(51.Qb8+ Kh7=)* 51...Kh7 52.Qxf7 Qxb3+ 53.Kd4 Qb6+ *(53...Qxh3 54.d6=)* 54.Ke5 Qg6 55.Qxg6+ Kxg6]

45.Nxe4? -2.44/15
[45.Qxe4 Rxf2+ 46.Kd1! Qxh3 (-> ...Qh3-b3+) 47.Re2]
[White has to play 45.Qxe4∓ -0.46/21 Rxf2+ *(45...Qxf2+ 46.Qe2∓)* 46.Kd1 Qxh3 47.Re2 *(47.Qxe5? Qd3+ 48.Kc1 Qc2#)* 47...Qb3+ 48.Ke1 Rxe2+ Remove Defender 49.Kxe2 Qxb2+ 50.Kf3]
45...Rxe3?-+ Both sides, presumably under major time pressure, have missed opportunities in the last few moves, and it's So who makes the final mistake.
46.Rxe3 f5 47.Nec3



Bxc3 48.Nxc3 Endgame. KQ-KRN
48...Qf2+ Skewer, Double Attack **49.Kd3 f4!**
[49...Qxb2? is the wrong capture. 50.d6 Qf2 51.d7+-]
50.Re4 -3.77/22 This move loses the game for White.
[50.Re8+∓ -1.59/20 is the only way for White. Kh7 *(50...Kf7 51.Re5∓)* 51.Rf8]
50...Qg3+
[50...Qxb2 51.Rxf4 Qg2 52.Re4=]
51.Kd2 -4.45/21
[51.Kc2 f3 52.d6 Qg2+ 53.Kb3 Qd2]
[⌓51.Kc2 -3.06/20 f3 *(51...Qxh3? 52.Rd4-+)* 52.d6 Qg2+ *(52...Qxh3? 53.Rd4-+)* 53.Kb3]
51...f3 Hoping for ...f3-f2! Black is clearly winning.
[And not 51...Qxh3 52.Rxf4 Qg2+ 53.Ke3∓]
52.d6 A very entertaining game. This is clearly a difficult line to play for both sides, but my feeling is that it's even more so for Black than for White.
52...Qg2+! 53.Ne2
[53.Ke3! f2! 54.d7 is level. f1N+!]
53...f2! is the only way, and this holds for Black. **54.Re8+**
[54.d7= Qg5+! wins.]
54...Kf7! 55.Re7+! Kf6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.57/ Black=0.17 (very precise) . Sensor Board Error (Ke4/e5)?
1-0

C24
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2864**
■ **Praggnanandhaa,Rameshbabu** **2624**
Oslo (m/1-rapid) 152/45 2022
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Nbxd2 a5 8.c3
[8.Nxe5? a4 9.Bxa4 Rxa4-+]
8...Nbd7 9.exd5 cxd5 The position is equal. **10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 Re8 12.Nf1 b5N**
[12...Qc7 13.Ne3 Nb6 14.a4 Bg4 15.Nxg4 Nxg4 16.h3 Nf6 17.Rc1 Rad8 18.Rc2 Nbd7 19.Rce2 e4 20.Nd4 Nc5 21.Bc2 Qb6 22.Nb5 g6 23.Re3 Qc6 24.d4 Ne6 25.f3 exf3

26.Qxf3 Ne4 27.Qe2 Nc3,A (2460)-Haemmerle,A (2454) World Team-ch01 1985 ½-½]

13.a4 b4 14.cxb4 axb4 15.Ne3 Bb7 16.d4 e4 17.Ne5 Nxe5 0.16/22

[17...Rxe5!∓ -0.45/21 18.dxe5 Nxe5]

18.dxe5= Rxe5 Threatens to win with ... d5-d4. **19.Qd4 Re7 20.Rac1 Rd7 21.Red1 h6 22.Rc5 Ra5 23.Rxa5** 0.01/20

[23.Rdc1± 0.37/23 feels stronger.]

23...Qxa5 24.h3 Kh7 25.Rc1 Rc7 0.83/25

[25...Qa6= 0.01/23 remains equal.]

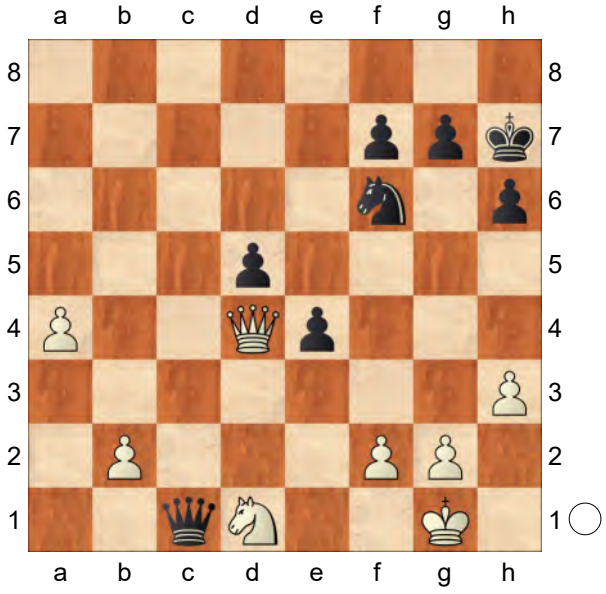
26.Rxc7± Qxc7 27.Qxb4 White is more active. **27...Qc1+ 28.Bd1 Ba6 29.Qd4** 0.71/22

[⌓29.Qc3 1.18/25 Qxc3 30.bxc3]

29...Be2 30.Kh2 Bxd1 31.Nxd1 Endgame. KQN-KQN **31...Qc7+** 1.68/24

[31...Qa1± 0.92/24 32.Ne3 Qa2]

32.Kg1+- Qc1



33.b4! e3 34.fxe3 Ne4 35.Qxd5 Nd2 1.74/27

[35...Qb1± 1.00/26]

36.Qf5+ 0.60/26

[36.Qd3++- 1.74/27 Kg8 37.Qe2]

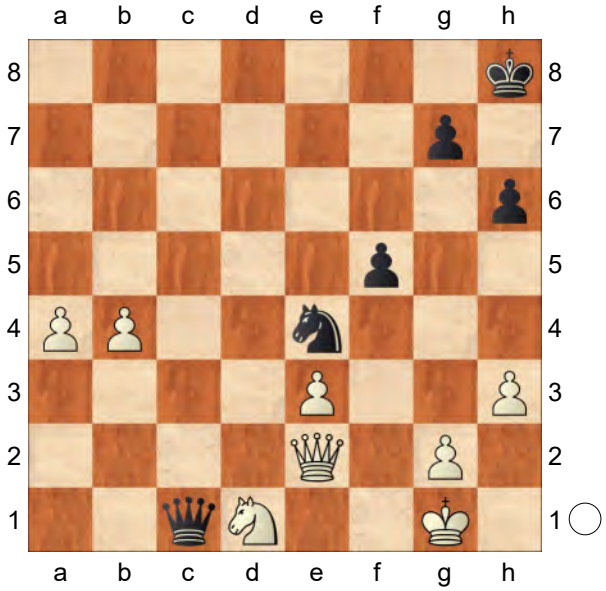
36...Kh8? 2.13/28

[36...Kg8± 0.60/26 37.Qg4 h5]

37.Qg4! f5 38.Qe2

[38.Qxf5? too greedy. Qxd1+ 39.Kh2 Nf1+-+ *(39...Qxa4 40.Qc8+ Kh7 41.Qf5+ Kh8 42.Qc8+ Kh7 43.Qf5+ Kh8=; 39...Qxa4 40.Qf8+ Kh7 41.Qf5+ Kh8 42.Qc8+ Kh7 43.Qf5+ Kh8=)*]

38...Ne4



39.Qe1 Prevents Ne4-c3 **39...Qa1** 3.35/25

[⌓39...h5 2.17/25 40.a5 Qc4]

40.a5 Nd6? 4.83/24

[40...Kg8 2.85/23 was necessary. 41.Qf1 Qa4]

41.Qd2 Nc4 42.Qd4 Qc1 43.Kf1 Nxe3+ 44.Qxe3 Qxd1+ KQ-KQ **45.Kf2 Qc2+ 46.Kg3** And now a5-a6 would win.

46...g5? 5.25/25

[46...Kh7 3.21/26 47.Qd4 Qe2]

47.Qe5+ Kh7 48.Kh2 2.88/23

[⌓48.b5 4.88/22]

48...f4 49.Qd5 Qa4? 8.13/24

[49...Qe2 3.19/22 50.Qf3 Qc4 51.Qb7+ Kg6 52.Qb6+ Kg7]

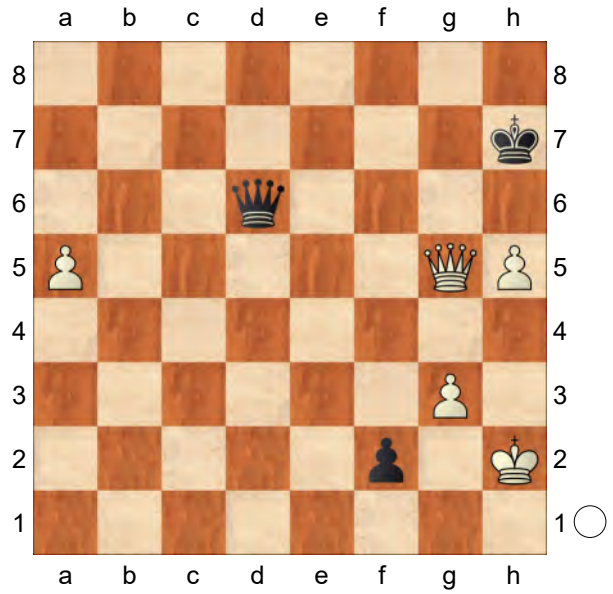
50.Qf7+ Kh8 51.Qg6 Qxb4 52.Qxh6+ Kg8 53.Qxg5+ Kh7 54.Qh5+ Kg7 55.Qg5+? -0.01/23

[White should try 55.a6+- 5.94/27 a6-a7 would kill now. Qa3 56.Qe5+ Kg8 57.Qd5+ *(57.Qxf4 Qxa6 58.Qg4+ Kf7+-)* 57...Kh7 58.Qb7+ Kg8 59.Qb8+ Kh7 60.Qb1+ *(60.Qxf4 Qxa6 61.Qe4+ Kh8+-)* 60...Kg7 61.Qb6]

55...Kh7!= 56.h4 Hoping for h4-h5. **56...Qd6 57.Qh5+ Kg7 58.Qg5+?** 0.01/19

[58.Kh3+- 5.01/25]

58...Kh7 59.h5 Threatening mate with Qg5-g6+! **59...f3+ 60.g3 f2**



61.Qg6+! Kh8 62.Qxd6 f1Q+- Inhibits Qd6-f6+. KQ-KQ **63.Qh6+ Kg8 64.Qe6+ Kh8 65.Qe3 Qb5 66.Qc3+ Kh7 67.g4 Qd5 68.Qc7+ Kg8 69.Kg3** 6.58/26

[⌓69.Qc8+ #16/21 Kg7 70.h6+ Decoy Kxh6 71.Qh8+ Kg6 72.Qh5+ Qxh5+ 73.gxh5+ Kxh5 74.a6]

69...Qe6 70.Qd8+ Kh7 71.Qd3+ Kh8 72.a6 Intending a6-a7 and mate. **72...Qe5+ 73.Kh3** White threatens a6-a7 and mate. **73...Qa1 74.Qd8+ Kh7 75.Qe7+ Kh6 76.Qe3+ Kh7 77.a7** Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/Black=0.28 (precise)

1-0

C55

□ **Fedoseev,Vladimir1** **2690**

■ **Fernandez,Daniel Howard** **2528**

Menorca op 3rd (8) 06.04.2024

[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Be7 4.d3

[4.d4 d6 *(4...exd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.0-0 d6 8.h3 Nxe4 9.Nxe4 d5 10.Nd2 dxc4 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qf3 Qd6 13.Nxc4 Qc5 14.b3 Be6 15.Ne3 Bf6 16.Rb1 Rad8 17.Ng4 Be5 18.Nxe5 Qxe5 19.Bb2* Ruddat,M (1024)-Trush,D (1002) GER-ch U10 Girls 2023 (10) 0-1 *)* 5.h3 Nf6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.0-0 a6 8.a4 exd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Re8 11.Re1 Nd7 12.Bf4 Bf6 13.Qd2 Nc5 14.f3 Be6 15.Bf1 a5 16.b3 Qd7 17.Rad1 Nxb3 18.cxb3 Bxb3 French Advanced (2512)-Lock,G (2116) 44: FIDE World Cup 2009 (4.6) 1-0]

4...d6 5.a3N

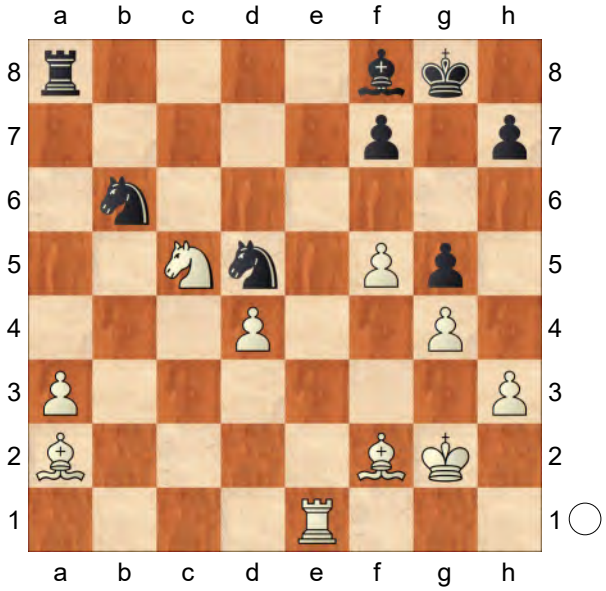
[5.Be3 Nf6 6.h3 a6 7.0-0 Na5 8.Bb3 0-0 9.Nbd2 Nxb3 10.axb3 Ne8 11.d4 exd4 12.Nxd4 f5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Nxf5 Rxf5 15.Ne4 d5 16.Qg4 Re5 17.Ng3 Nf6 18.Qd4 Bd6 19.Rad1 c6 Giersing,J-Abersten, S Nordiska SFB Kongress-01 Klass 01 1901 (2) 1-0]

5...Nf6 6.Nc3 Be6 7.Nd5 Nd4 8.Ng5 c6 0.61/27

[8...Bxd5= 0.21/22 deserves consideration. 9.exd5 0-0]

9.Nxe6± Nxe6 10.Ne3 0.09/20

[Better is 10.Nxf6+± 0.65/20 Bxf6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Qh5+ g6 13.Qh6]
10...d5= 11.exd5 cxd5 12.Ba2 0-0 13.0-0 g6 14.c3 Qd7 15.Nc2 Kg7 16.d4 exd4 17.Nxd4 Bc5 18.Nf3 Rad8 19.Qd2 Rfe8 20.Qh6+ Kg8 21.Qh4 Ne4 22.Ne5 Qc7 23.Nd3 Bb6 24.Bh6 Nd6 0.18/23
[24...Ng7∓ -0.36/18]
25.Qg3
[25.Bxd5? Nf5 26.Qc4 Nxh6-+]
25...a5 0.63/21
[25...Qe7= -0.16/20]
26.Rad1
[26.Bxd5? Nf5 27.Qxc7 Nxc7 28.Bxb7 Rxd3-+ *(28...Nxh6? 29.Rad1-+)*]
[26.Rae1 is more complex. Ne4 27.Qf3 N6g5 28.Qg4]
26...Qe7 27.Qf3
[27.Bxd5? perishes. Nf5 28.Qf3 Nxh6-+]
27...Ne4 28.g3 Qf6
[Much worse is 28...N6g5 29.Qg2=]
29.Qxf6 Nxf6 30.Kg2 Bc7 0.96/21
[Black should try 30...d4± 0.41/18]
31.h3 Bd6 32.Be3 b5 33.f4 Nc7 34.Bd4 Nd7 35.Bb3 Bf8 36.f5 Bg7 37.Bf2 White is more active. This pair of bishops is nice. **37...g5** 1.28/21
[37...gxf5± 0.68/22 38.Rfe1 Re6]
38.a4 bxa4 1.61/21
[38...Nf6± 1.23/20 39.Bb6 Rc8]
39.Bxa4+- Re7 40.g4 d4 41.cxd4 0.78/20
[Much weaker is 41.Bxd4?! Bxd4 42.cxd4 Nb6∓]
[⌓41.Bxd7 1.27/23 Bd7-c6 is the strong threat. Rexd7 42.c4]
41...Nb6± 42.Bb3 a4 43.Ba2 Ncd5 44.Rfe1 Rxe1 1.46/22
[⌓44...Ra7 0.97/16]
45.Rxe1 a3 2.38/23
[45...h5± 1.57/22 was necessary. 46.gxh5 Rc8]
46.bxa3 Re1-b1 would now be deadly.
46...Ra8 3.24/20
[⌓46...Nc3 1.87/19]
47.Nc5 And now Ba2xd5 would win.
47...Bf8? 3.75/18
[47...Nf4+ 2.05/16 48.Kh2 Bf8]

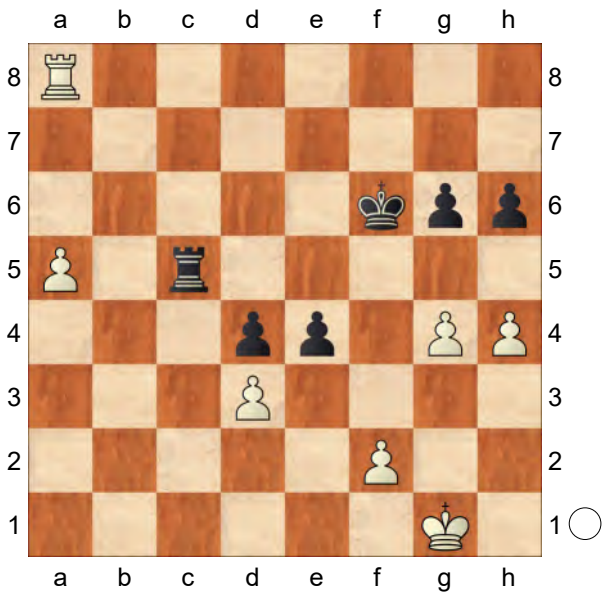


48.Bxd5+- Nxd5 49.Ra1 Nf4+ 50.Kf3 Nxh3 51.Be3 Bd6 52.a4 Nf4 53.Bxf4 White is clearly winning. **53...Bxf4** Endgame. KRB-KRN **54.a5 Bb8 55.d5 Kg7 56.a6 Ba7 57.Nb7 Re8 58.Ra3** Inhibits Re8-e3+. **58...h5 59.d6 hxg4+ 60.Kg3 Bb6 61.Rb3 Bd8 62.Nxd8 Rxd8 63.a7**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.29 (precise)
1-0

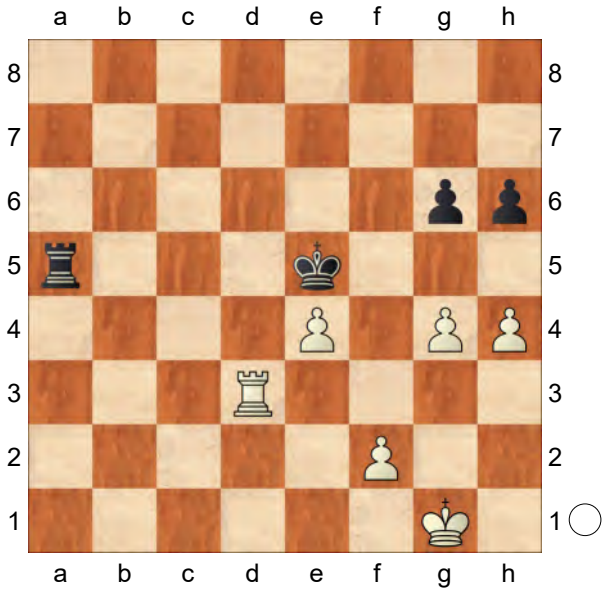
C24
□ **Liang,Awonder** **2648**
■ **Corrales Jimenez,Fidel** **2538**
World op 52nd (7) 06.06.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
IN TOO MUCH OF A RUSH In my game against Alexei Shirov in Malmö there was no fire on board, just an instructive endgame where I was a pawn down. Why did I end up there? I was in too much of a rush. Why did I escape? He was also in too much of a rush! **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Nbxd2 Nbd7 8.exd5!?** A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante. **8...cxd5 9.0-0** next Qd1-e2 is good for White. **9...0-0** The position is equal. **10.Re1 Re8 11.Ba4N** An interesting novelty. Eine interessante Neuerung.
[Vorgänger: 11.c4 d4 12.Ba4 b6 13.b4 *(13.Bc6!? Rb8□ 14.Ne4=)* 13...Bb7 14.Rc1 *(14.c5 bxc5 15.bxc5 Qc7 16.Rc1 Bc6 17.Bxc6 Qxc6 18.Nc4 Qxc5 19.Ncxe5 Qd5 20.Nxd7 Nxd7 21.Rxe8+ Rxe8 22.Qa4 h6 23.h3 Rd8 24.Qxa7 Ra8 25.Qxd4 Qxd4 26.Nxd4 Rxa2 27.Rc8+ Kh7 28.Nf3 Ra1+* Shirov,A (2701)-Giri,A (2690) 19th Sigeman & Co 2011 (3) ½-½*)* 14...Rc8 15.Qb3 h6 16.Qa3 a6 17.c5 bxc5 18.bxc5 Strongly threatening c5-c6. Bxf3 19.Bxd7 Nxd7 20.Nxf3 Sethuraman,S (2665)-Nguyen,T (2535) Gibraltar Masters 17th 2019 (10) ½-½]
11...Re7 12.Bxd7 Nxd7 13.c4 d4 14.b4 b6 15.Ne4 Nf8 16.a4 Bg4 -0.10/25
[16...Ng6∓ -0.73/20]
17.h3= Bh5 1.10/22
[17...Bd7= -0.11/20]
18.Ng3± Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Rb8 20.a5 Threatens to win with a5xb6. **20...bxa5** 1.38/19
[⌓20...b5 0.95/21]
21.bxa5 0.36/20 White is more active.
[21.Nf5± 1.38/19 axb4 22.Nxe7+ Qxe7 23.Qe4]
21...Re6 22.Reb1 g6
[22...Rxb1+ 23.Rxb1 Rf6 24.Qe4 Qxa5 25.Rb8+-]
23.Ne4 Nd7 24.g4
[24.Rxb8 simplifies Qxb8 25.h4 f5 26.Ng5]
24...Kg7
[24...Rxb1+ 25.Rxb1 Qxa5 26.Rb7+-]
25.c5 Rxb1+ 26.Rxb1 Qc7 0.85/26 Against Rb1-b7
[26...Qa8± 0.46/24]
27.Ng5 0.27/23
[White should try 27.g5!± 0.85/26]
27...Rf6= 28.Qd5 aiming for Ng5-e4.
28...Qc6!
[28...Qxc5? 29.Qxd7 Qxa5 30.Ne4+-]
[28...Nxc5? 29.Rc1+-]
29.Qxc6 Remove Defender **29...Rxc6** Endgame. KRN-KRN **30.Rb7 h6?** 3.42/27 This costs Black the game.
[Black should play 30...Nxc5± 0.38/21 31.Rxf7+ Kg8]
31.Nxf7+- Decoy
[Not 31.Rxd7 hxg5 32.Rxa7 Rxc5±]
31...Kxf7 32.Rxd7+ KR-KR **32...Ke6 33.Rxa7 Rxc5 34.Ra8** a5-a6 is the strong threat. **34...Kf6** 4.93/24
[⌓34...Kd5 3.44/20 35.a6 Ra5]
35.h4 e4

(Diagram)



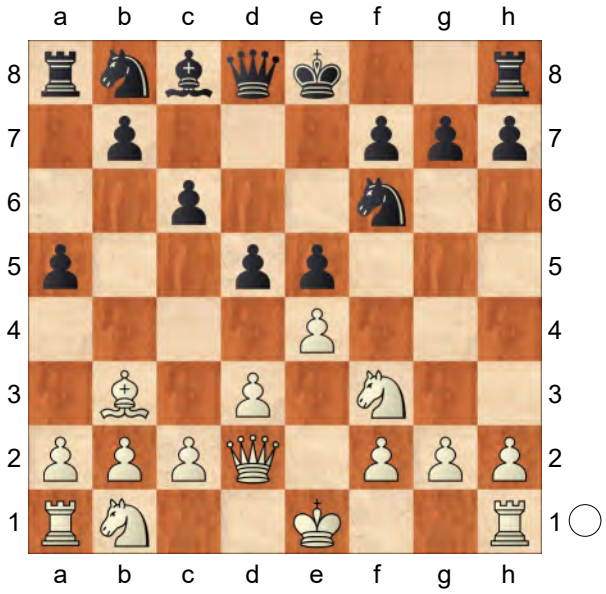
36.dxe4 1.61/19
[⌓36.a6! 3.97/23 Ra5 *(36...exd3? too greedy. 37.a7+-)* 37.a7 *(37.dxe4 d3±)* 37...Ra1+ 38.Kg2]
36...d3? 4.45/28
[36...Ke5 1.61/19 was necessary. 37.Kg2 Kxe4]
37.Rd8 Ke5 38.Rxd3 White is clearly winning. **38...Rxa5**



39.Kg2! And now Rd3-d5+! would win.
39...Kxe4 40.Rd6 g5 7.33/24
[⌓40...Kf4 4.91/24 41.Rxg6 h5]
41.Rxh6 gxh4 42.Kh3 Ra3+ 43.Kxh4 Rf3 44.Re6+ Kd5 45.Re2
Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.59
1-0

C24
□ **Alekseev,Evgeny V** **2550**
■ **Kuzubov,Yuriy** **2606**
CrunchLab Masters Div 3 W rapid (2.5)
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 a5



White must now prevent ...a5-a4. seems to push 7...0-0 aside.setzt sich inzwischen gegen 7...0-0 durch. **8.a3**
The position is equal.
[8.Nxe5? a4 *(8...dxe4? 9.Nxf7 Qe7 10.Nxh8+-)* 9.Bxa4 Rxa4 10.exd5 cxd5-+ *(10...Qxd5? 11.0-0-+)*]
[8.a4 0-0 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.0-0 f6 11.h3 Be6 12.d4 e4 13.Re1 Bxh3 14.Rxe4 Bf5 15.Re2 Kh8 16.Nc3 b6 17.Rae1 Ra7 18.Nxd5 cxd5 19.Qf4 Bg6 20.c3 Rd7 21.Nh4 Bh5 22.Re3 g5 10.♗c2 c5 11.♘bd2 15267 (2757)-

Ferrer Sanchez,P (2738) game Internet 2009 (5.2) ½-½]
[8.Nc3 d4 9.Ne2 Nbd7 10.a4 0-0 11.Ng3 Ne8 12.0-0 Nd6 13.c3 c5 14.Rac1 dxc3 15.bxc3 b6 16.d4 cxd4 17.cxd4 Bb7 18.dxe5 Nxe4 19.Nxe4 Bxe4 20.Ng5 Nc5 21.Qxd8 Raxd8 22.Rxc5 bxc5 Fier,A (2606)-Pourkashiyan,A (2313) Reykjavik op 2023 (4) 1-0]

8...0-0N
[8...a4!? 9.Ba2□ 0-0= 10.Nxe5 Qe7 11.f4 dxe4 12.0-0 exd3 13.cxd3 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6:-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.]
[8...Qd6 9.Qg5 0-0 10.Qxe5 Qxe5 11.Nxe5 dxe4 12.d4 Nbd7 13.Nc3 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Ng4 15.Nxe4 Nxe5 16.0-0-0 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6:-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.]

9.Nxe5 dxe4N 0.46/23
[Vorgänger: 9...Qc7 0.38/23 9...Qd8-e7 -0.15 10.f4! Hoping for Nb1-c3. dxe4 11.Nc3 0.04/20 *(11.dxe4± 0.51/22 Nbd7 12.Nxf7)* 11...exd3!= 12.0-0-0 -0.65/20 *(12.Qxd3= 0.04/20 a4 13.Bxa4)* 12...Nbd7 0.23/19 *(Black should try 12...Bf5∓ -0.65/20)* 13.Nxd3= b5 14.Rhe1 b4 15.Na4 c5 Svidler,P (2683)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2792) Chess.com Rapid CGC KO 2022 (2.2) ½-½]
[9...Qe7= -0.17/24 10.f4 dxe4]

10.d4 -0.09/23
[10.Bxf7+± 0.46/23 Rxf7 11.Nxf7 Kxf7 12.dxe4]

10...Nbd7 11.Nc3 Nxe5 0.40/18
[11...Qc7!= -0.02/22]

12.dxe5± Qxd2+ 13.Kxd2 Ng4 14.Nxe4 f2-f4 is the strong threat.

14...Nxe5 15.Rae1 a4 16.Ba2 Ra5 17.Kc3 0.04/22
[Better is 17.Kc1± 0.60/23]

17...b6 0.51/22
[17...Be6= 0.04/22 is more appropriate. 18.Bxe6 fxe6]

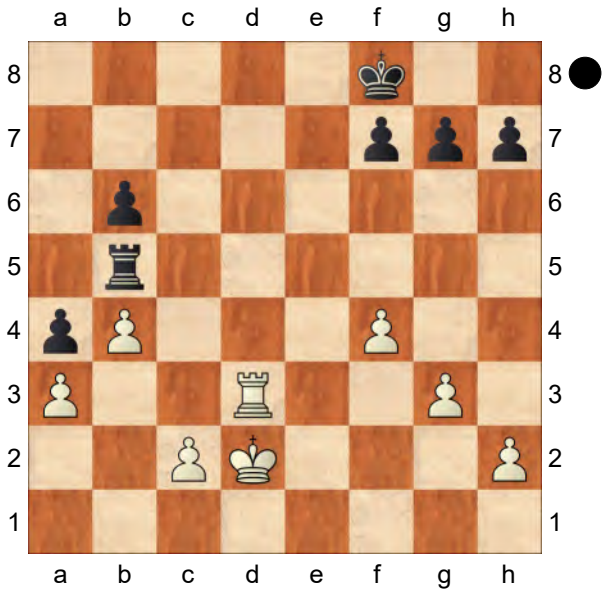
18.f4 0.01/21
[18.Kd2± 0.51/22]

18...Ng6= 19.g3 Ne7 0.40/22
[19...Be6= 0.00/21 was preferrable. 20.Bxe6 fxe6]

20.Rd1 Bg4 21.Rd6 Nd5+ 22.Kd2 Re8? 2.33/23 This costs Black the game.
[22...Rc8!± 0.63/18]

23.Re1+- Kf8 24.Rxc6 Bf3 25.Nc3→ White is out for blood. **25...Nxc3 26.Rxe8+**
[26.Rxc3 Rxe1 27.Kxe1 Bg4=]

26...Kxe8 27.Rxc3 Endgame. KRB-KRB **27...Bd5 28.Re3+ Kf8 29.Bxd5 Rxd5+** KR-KR **30.Rd3 Rb5 31.b4**



aiming for g3-g4. **31...axb3 32.cxb3 Ke7 33.b4 h5 34.Kc3** White is clearly winning. **34...h4** 7.25/20
[⌓34...Rf5 4.72/19 35.a4 g6]

35.Kc4
[35.gxh4 Rh5 36.Re3+ Kd6±]

35...Rf5 36.Rd5
[36.gxh4 b5+ 37.Kd4 Rxf4+ 38.Kc5

Rf5+ 39.Kb6 Re5±]
36...Rf6 37.Kb5 Prevents Rf6-c6
[Less strong is 37.gxh4 Rxf4+ 38.Kb5 Ke6±]
37...hxg3 38.hxg3 Rg6 39.Rd3 f5 40.a4 Ke8 41.Rd5 Rxg3 42.Kxb6 g5 43.Rxf5 g4 44.Rg5 Rb3 45.b5
[45.Rxg4 Rxb4+ 46.Ka5 Rb1+-]
45...g3 46.a5 Strongly threatening a5-a6. **46...Kf7 47.a6** Threatening mate with a6-a7. **47...Ra3 48.a7**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.37
1-0

C28
□ **Hanke,Leonhard** **2777**
■ **Krumpacnik,D** **2758**
RUS-ch Superfinal 61st (13.2) 08.02.21
[Kitty Kat]

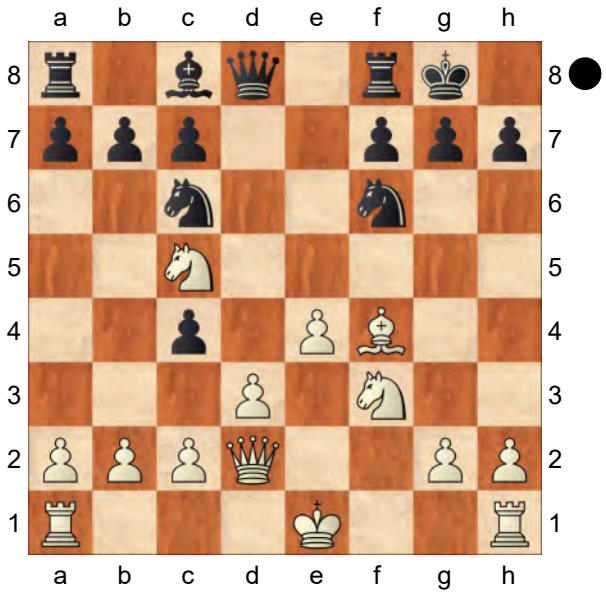
C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d3 Bc5 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 exf4 7.Bxf4 d6 8.Na4 -0.54/19
[Better is 8.Qd2= 0.06/17]
8...d5!∓ 9.Nxc5 dxc4 10.Qd2 -1.20/20
[White should try 10.0-0∓ -0.60/18]

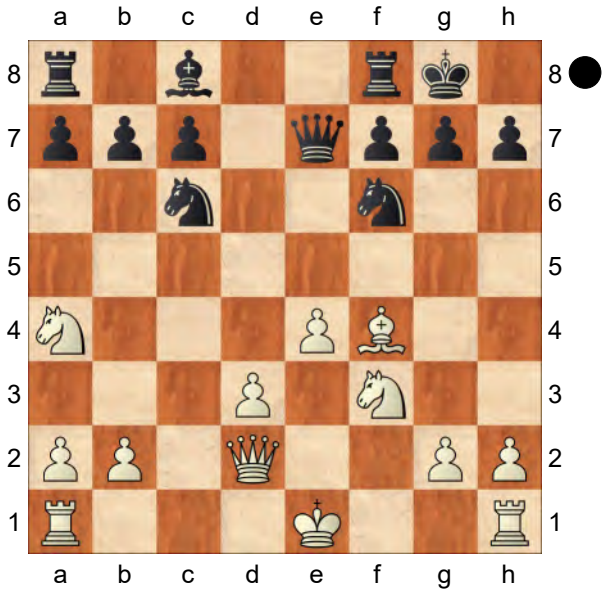
(Diagram)

White is on the road to losing.
10...Qe7!∓ 11.Na4 cxd3
Remove Defender **12.cxd3**

(Diagram)

Nxe4! 13.dxe4 Qxe4+ 14.Qe3N Re8
...Qe4-b4+ is the strong threat.
[Don't do 14...Qxa4 15.0-0]
15.Nc3 Qxe3+ 16.Bxe3 Rxe3+ 17.Kf2





Rd3 18.Rhd1 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Be6 20.Nb5 Rc8 21.a3 a6 22.Nc3 Rd8 23.Rc1 Bd5 24.Ne1 Kf8 25.b4 Bc4 26.Nf3 Rd3 27.Ne4 -4.00/22
[⌓27.Kg1 -2.78/21]
27...Bd5-+ 28.Nc5 Rxa3 29.Nxb7 Bxf3 30.gxf3 Endgame. KRN-KRN
30...Ne5 And now ...Ne5-d3+ would win.
[Much less strong is 30...Nxb4 31.Rxc7 Nd3+ 32.Kg3]
31.Rxc7 Rxf3+ 32.Ke2 Rb3 33.Nd6 Rxb4 34.Nf5 Rb8 Against Rc7-c8+
[34...Rb2+? 35.Ke3 Rb8 *(35...Rxh2*

36.Rc8#) 36.Ke4-+]
35.Ke3 g6 36.Ke4 gxf5+ -2.61/23
[⌓36...Rb4+ -4.47/23 37.Nd4 Nf3 Deflection 38.Kxf3 Rxd4]
37.Kxe5 Ra8 Prevents Rc7-a7. aiming for ...a6-a5. **38.Kf6?** -4.20/29
[38.Rc4 -2.05/27]
38...Kg8
Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.15 (very precise)
0-1

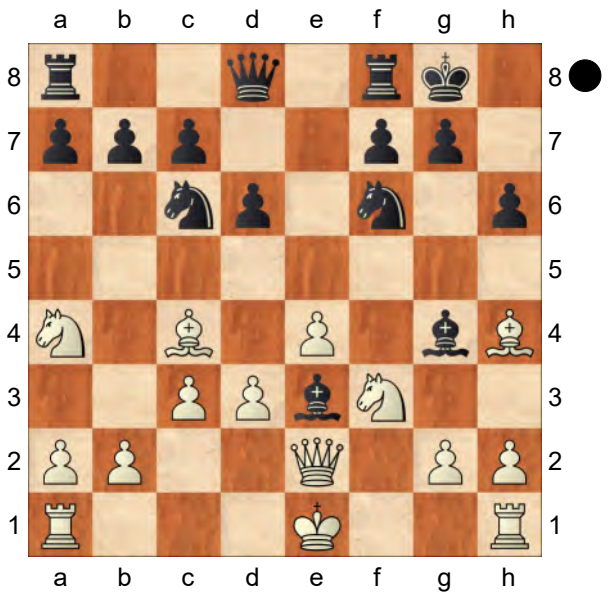
C28

□ **Grischuk,Alexander 2777**
■ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier 2758**
Opera Euro Rapid Prelim (13.2) 08.02.21
[Mikhalevski,V, MH]

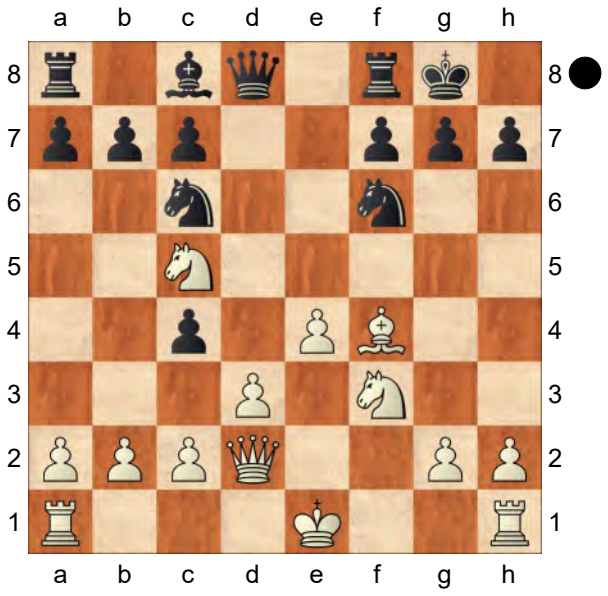
C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d3 Bc5
[The game Dubov,D (2710)-Vidit,S (2726) chess24.com INT 2021 [Mikhalevski,V] in the current update saw 4...Na5]
5.f4 Recently this line scored very badly for White. In fact, the last win at a high level came in the game Kasparov,G-Caruana, Saint Louis Ultimate Blitz Challenge 2016. **5...0-0** next ...Rf8-e8 is good for Black.
[5...d6 -0.01/21 5...0-0 -0.38 is much more common, although after 6.Nf3 exf4 Black also tested a lot of alternatives here. *(* For example, *6...Bg4* 0.38/20 6...e5xf4 -0.21 was tested in Minasian,A (2572)-Mamedyarov,S (2542) Batumi 2002 [Nigel Davies]*)* 7.Bxf4 0-0 it transposes to the text.]
[5...d5 Amdouni,Z (2350) -Eljanov,P (2723) Tromso NOR 2014 [Mikhalevski,V]]
6.Nf3 exf4 7.Bxf4 d6 8.Na4?! -0.46/21 This position has been known since 1898(!), when Chigorin first made this dubious move. See below.
[Other options include 8.Qd2!? Be6 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.Na4 Bd4 with equal chances.]
[and 8.Bg5?! -0.49/20 8.Qd1-d2 -0.01 h6 9.Bh4 Be6 *(9...Bg4!?* is also interesting.*)* 10.Bb3 Nd4 0.20/20 was roughly equal in Kasparov,G (2812)-Caruana,F (2795) Saint Louis 2016. *(10...Bxb3!? 11.axb3 Re8* with the idea of 12...d5 makes sense too.*; 10...Bxb3∓* -0.38/22 *11.axb3 g5)*]
[8.Qd2= 0.02/22 feels stronger.]
8...d5!∓ A strong move, which promises Black an edge.
[Chigorin's opponent played 8...Bd4 0.04/21 8...d6-d5 -0.42 and after 9.Bg5? -0.80/22 *(9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Nc3* is better.*; 9.Nxd4=* 0.04/21 remains equal. *Nxd4 10.Nc3)* 9...Bg4! aiming for ...Rf8-e8. 10.c3 -1.09/20 *(*Better is *10.Qd2!∓* -0.54/21 *)* 10...h6!∓ 11.Bh4 Be3! Strongly threatening ...Nc6-e5. 12.Qe2

(Diagram)

Bg5! 13.Bxg5 hxg5 obtained a decisive advantage. Chigorin,M-Baird, D Vienna 1898]
9.Nxc5
[9.exd5? -0.99/19 9.Na4xc5 -0.44 runs into Re8+ 10.Kf1 Nxd5 11.Nxc5 Threatens to win with Qd1-d2. Nxf4∓]
9...dxc4 10.Qd2? -1.60/20
[Probably the best play for both sides would be 10.0-0 Re8 11.Na4 The knight is misplaced on c5 and

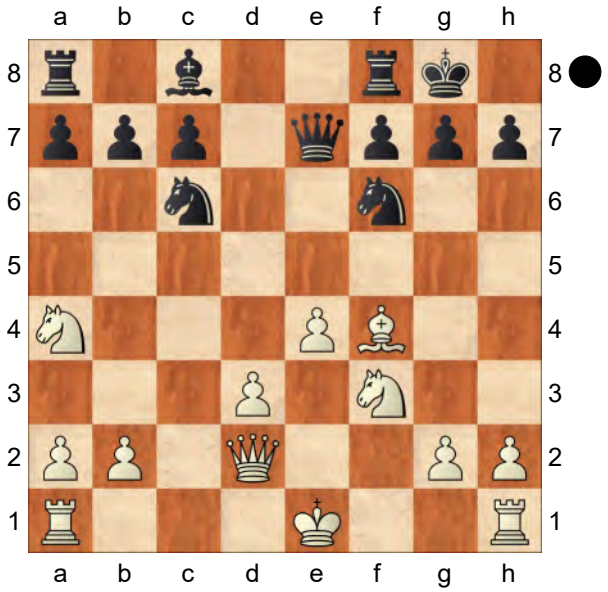


needs to be brought to c3. cxd3 12.cxd3 Bg4 13.h3 Bh5 14.Nc3 Nd4 with some edge for Black thanks to his better pawn structure.]
[10.0-0∓ -0.36/21]



After this mistake White is in trouble. Black keeps a firm grip on the game.
10...Qe7!∓ 11.Na4
[11.Be3 -2.40/19 11.Nc5-a4 -1.65 b6 12.Na4 cxd3 13.cxd3 Ba6 ...Ra8-d8 is the strong threat. 14.0-0 Rad8-+ is also bad for White.]

[as well as 11.e5 Qxc5
A) 12.exf6 -2.46/18 12.Bf4-e3 -1.83 Re8+ 13.Kf1 cxd3 14.cxd3 *(14.Qxd3 Bf5-+)* 14...Bg4 is even worse.;
B) 12.Be3 Qb5! 13.exf6 Qxb2 14.0-0 Black must now prevent f6xg7. Qxf6-+]
11...cxd3 12.cxd3 -2.10/19
[12.0-0∓ -1.46/18]



12...Nxe4!-+ White's position collapses. A very rare case where a player of Grischuk's calibre obtains a lost position with the white pieces after only 12 moves! **13.dxe4 Qxe4+ 14.Qe3N Re8** Black wants the dark-squared bishop. ...Qe4-b4+ would now be deadly.
[14...Qxa4 would also be sufficient for a decisive advantage.]
[14...Qxa4 15.0-0]
15.Nc3 Qxe3+ 16.Bxe3 Rxe3+ 17.Kf2 Rd3 Black is two pawns up and converts his material advantage without big problems. **18.Rhd1 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Be6 20.Nb5 Rc8 21.a3 a6 22.Nc3 Rd8 23.Rc1 Bd5** Any exchange brings Black closer to a win. **24.Ne1 Kf8 25.b4**

Bc4 26.Nf3 Rd3 27.Ne4 Bd5 28.Nc5 Rxa3 29.Nxb7 Bxf3 30.gxf3 Endgame. KRN-KRN **30...Ne5**
[30...Nxb4 31.Rxc7 Nd3+ 32.Kg3]
31.Rxc7 Rxf3+
[Don't take 31...Nxf3 32.Kg2-+]
32.Ke2 Rb3 33.Nd6 Rxb4 34.Nf5 Rb8 Against Rc7-c8+
[34...Rb2+ 35.Ke3 Rb8 *(35...Rxh2 36.Rc8#)* 36.Kf4 Nd3+ 37.Kg3-+]
35.Ke3 g6 36.Ke4 gxf5+
[36...Rb4+! also wins comfortably.]
37.Kxe5 Ra8! 38.Kf6? -5.97/26
[38.Rc4 -2.39/22 was the crucial defense.]
38...Kg8 and the advance of the a-pawn will decide the game. The entire setup with f4 doesn't promise White any advantage, while his 8.Na4 is dubious and leads to Black's advantage.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/ Black=0.15 (very precise)
0-1

		C30
☐	**Nepomniachtchi,Ian**	**2784**
■	**Anand,V**	**2753**

Legends of Chess Prelim rapid (6.2)
[Mikhalevski,V, MH]

C30: King's Gambit Declined
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 d6 5.f4 Nc6 6.Nf3 Ng4? This aggressive move is relatively rare and rightly so. Black has an obvious threat of 7...Nf2, but White has a strong reply.
[The main line is 6...Bg4 Ponomariov,R (2712)-Tomashevsky,E (2728) Huai'an CHN 2016 [Mikhalevski,V]]
[We also considered 6...Be6 Carmes,M-Boonekamp,M Chambery FRA 2002 [Paul Motwani]]
[and 6...a6 Bathie,N-McLelland,A Richardson Cup, Scotland 1988 [Paul Motwani]]
7.Ng5! A correct reaction. Now Black's idea doesn't work. **7...Bf2+** 0.38/20
[7...Nf2? 2.02/19 7...0-0 -0.03 runs into 8.Qh5+-]
[7...0-0 is strongly met by 8.f5! Bf2+ *(8...Nf6 9.Nd5 Nxd5 10.Bxd5* And now Qd1-h5 would win. *h6 11.Qh5 Qf6! 12.h4+-* leads to the decisive advantage for White.*; 8...Nf6!?)* 9.Kf1 Ne3+ 10.Bxe3 Bxe3 11.h4! Bxg5 12.hxg5 Qxg5 13.Rh5! Qg3 14.Nd5± with a clear advantage for White.]
[In case of 7...h6 White can still play 8.f5! hxg5 9.Qxg4 f6 1.21/21 *(9...Rh4!=* 0.12/21 *10.Qxg5 Qxg5 11.Bxg5 Rg4)* 10.h4± Nd4 11.Rh3! with a clear edge for White.]
[7...Rf8 can also be met by 8.f5! Nf6! 9.Nd5 h6 10.Nf3±]
[7...h6= 0.01/19 8.f5 *(8.Nxf7? Qh4+ 9.g3 Qh3-+; 8.Bxf7+ Kf8=)* 8...hxg5 9.Qxg4 Rh4 10.Qxg5 Qxg5 11.Bxg5 Rg4]
8.Kf1± **exf4** 0.75/21 A very concrete approach. Vishy attacks the knight on g5.
[8...0-0? 9.h3 exf4 *(9...Ne3+? 10.Bxe3 Bxe3 11.Qh5+-)* 10.hxg4+-]
[8...Nd4± 0.39/21]
9.Bxf7+!± White has to be very precise. White is better.
[9.Nxf7?? -1.24/21 9.Bc4xf7+ 0.81 would lose to Qh4 10.Bxf4 -1.93/21 *(10.h3∓ -1.45/21 Rf8 11.hxg4 Qxh1+ 12.Kxf2 Qh4+ 13.Kf1)* 10...Rf8-+]
[9.Bxf7+!? Kf8 10.Be6±]
9...Kf8 10.Ne6+ -0.01/23

[10.Be6! is more precise. For example,

A) 10...Qxg5 11.Qxg4 Qxg4 12.Bxg4 Bxg4 13.Kxf2± wins a pawn since g5 1.40/21 is met by *(⌓13...Ke7 0.92/18)* 14.h4!+-;

B) or 10...Ne3+ 11.Bxe3! Bxe3 12.Qh5! Ne5 Repels Qh5-f7+ 13.Bxc8 Qxc8 14.Nd5±;

C) 10...Nce5 11.Bxc8 Qxc8 12.Bxf4 Ke8 13.h3 Bg3! *(13...Rf8? 1.77/22 13...Bf2-g3 0.56 runs into 14.hxg4 Rxf4 15.Nd5! Nxg4 16.Ke2!+- Dodges Ng4-e3)* 14.hxg4 Bxf4 15.Nxh7! c6 Wards off Nc3-d5 16.Rh3!±]

[10.Be6± 0.39/22 is more appropriate. Qxg5 11.Qxg4 Qxg4 12.Bxg4]

10...Bxe6!= 11.Bxe6 Ne3+ 12.Bxe3! Bxe3

[12...fxe3? 0.95/22 12...Bf2xe3 0.35 is bad due to 13.Qf3+ Qf6 14.Qxf6+ gxf6 15.Nb5+- 0.59/19 *(15.Nd1± 1.02/21)*]

13.Qh5! A strong move, which retains the better chances.

[Earlier White played 13.Nd5 in Hortensius,L (2033)-Moser,E Fermo 2009, which has to be met by g6! Inhibits Qd1-h5. 14.g3 Kg7 15.gxf4 Rf8!

A) but not 16.Nxe3? -0.79/22 16.f4-f5 0.26 Rxf4+ 17.Ke1 Nd4! ...Qd8-g5! is the strong threat. 18.Bg4 Qh4+ -0.31/5 *(*Black should play *18...h5* -0.70/22 *19.Bxh5 Qh4+ 20.Kd2 Rh8 21.Bxg6 Qf2+ 22.Kc3 Qxe3)* 19.Kd2∓ Qf2+ 20.Be2 aiming for Ne3-d5. Nf3+ 21.Kc3 Qxe3-+;

B) 16.Qg4 Ne5 17.Qg3 Bxf4! 18.Nxf4 Black must now prevent Kf1-e2. Qf6 is also roughly equal.;

C) 16.f5 Bc5! 17.b4! -0.29/18 *(17.Qg4!± 0.38/19)* 17...Nxb4= 18.Nxb4 Threatens to win with Nb4-d5. Qf6! 19.Nd5 Qxe6 20.Nxc7 Qc8 21.Nxa8 Rxf5+! 22.exf5 Qxf5+ 23.Kg2 Qf2+ 24.Kh3 Qe3+ with a perpetual.]

13...Ne5 0.99/21 A bad defence. Repels Qh5-f7+. Black is weak on the light squares

[Anand had to prefer 13...Qf6! 14.Bb3 Ne7 covering the d5-square. Play can develop 15.Ke2 *(15.h4!?±)* 15...g6! 16.Qh6+ Qg7 17.Qxg7+ Kxg7 18.g3! g5 19.h4 Bb6! 20.hxg5 fxg3 Hoping for ...g3-g2. 21.Kf3 Raf8+! 22.Kxg3 Bf2+ 23.Kg4 Ng6 with compensation for the sacrificed pawn.]

[13...Qf6= 0.01/22 keeps the balance. 14.Bb3 Nb4]

14.Nd5± Now White is clearly better again. Black is on the road to losing.

14...c6 The only move to stay in the game. **15.Nxe3 Qf6?!** 1.67/22

[It was necessary to play 15...fxe3 16.Ke2! Ke7! 17.Bb3 Strongly threatening Rh1-f1! h6± although Black's position would remain difficult.]

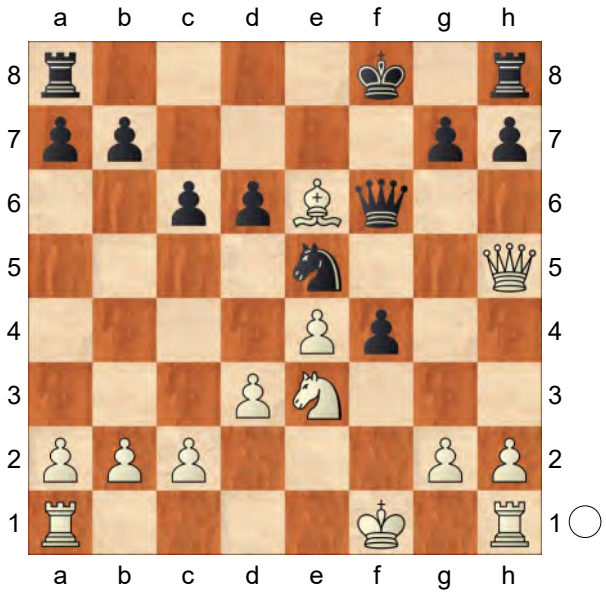
[15...fxe3± 1.25/23 might work better. 16.Ke2 Qe8 *(16...Ke7 17.Bb3±)*]

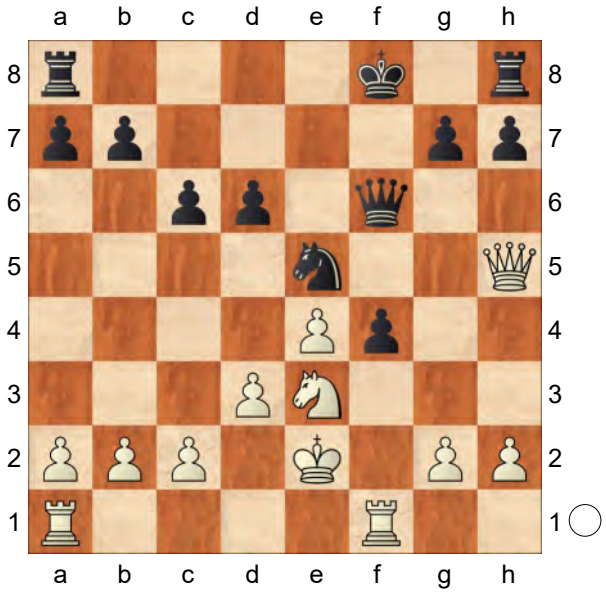
(Diagram)

16.Ke2!+- Qxe6 17.Rhf1! Black loses at least a pawn. **17...Qf6N** 3.15/22

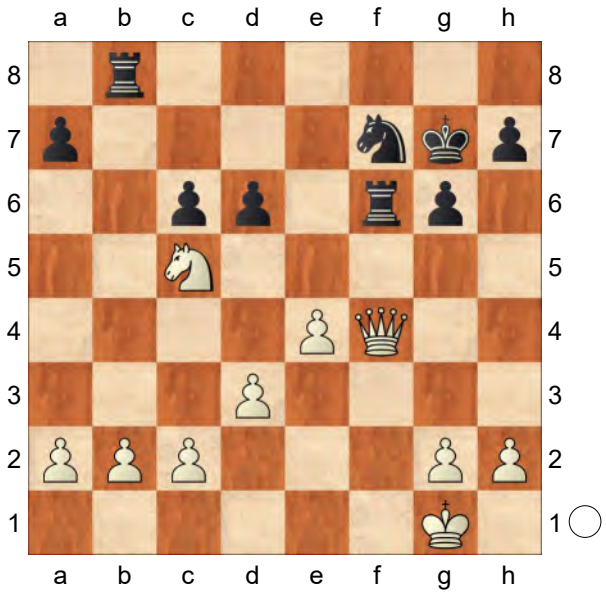
[17...Ke7 2.19/22 17...Ne5-g6 1.33 18.Qg5+ Qf6 19.Nf5+ is hopeless as well.]

[17...Ng6 1.65/19 was necessary.]





18.Rxf4!! Clearance. Active counter play! **18...Qxf4 19.Rf1 Qxf1+**
[19...Ng6? 20.Qg4+- *(20.Rxf4+? Nxf4+ 21.Kf2 Nxh5-+; 20.Rxf4+? Nxf4+ 21.Kd2 Nxh5-+)*]
20.Kxf1 Black is lost here because of his bad king. **20...Re8 21.Kg1**
[The direct 21.Qg5!? with the idea of 22.Nf5, was strong.]
21...Nf7 22.Qg4
[22.Qa5! would win at least one more pawn. a6 23.Qc7 Re7 24.Qb8++-]
22...g6 23.Nc4
[23.Qd7 Re7 24.Qh3 d5±]
23...Re7 24.Qf4 Re6 Wards off Qf4-f6
25.Na5! Kg7
[25...Re7 26.Qf2! c5 27.Qf6!+- is also bad for Black.]
26.Nxb7
[Much less strong is 26.Qf2 c5 27.h3 *(27.Nxb7 Rb8±)* 27...Ne5±]
26...Rb8 27.Nc5 A nice tactical trick, which saves the b-pawn. **27...Re7**
[27...Rf6 runs into 28.Qxf6+ Kxf6 29.Nd7++-]
[27...Rf6



28.Qxf6+!! *(28.Qg3? Rxb2 29.Qe1 dxc5-+)* 28...Kxf6 29.Nd7+ Ke6 30.Nxb8]
28.Nb3 Ne5 29.h3 c5 30.Qd2!? Inhibits a7-a5. **30...Rf8 31.d4!** White gets to Black's weak pawns this way. **31...cxd4 32.Qxd4 Rf6 33.Nd2 g5 34.Nf1** and Black resigned, not waiting for the knight to arrive on f5.6...Ng4? is a risky move for Black, which was proven by the Russian player, although 10.Be6 would be even more convincing.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very

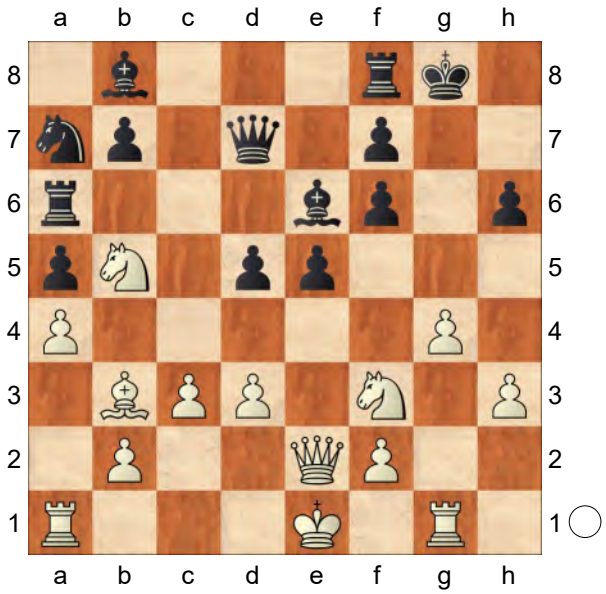
precise) /Black=0.31
1-0

		C24
□	**Rapport,Richard**	**2752**
■	**Pranesh,M**	**2503**
World-chT Rapid (10)		28.08.2023

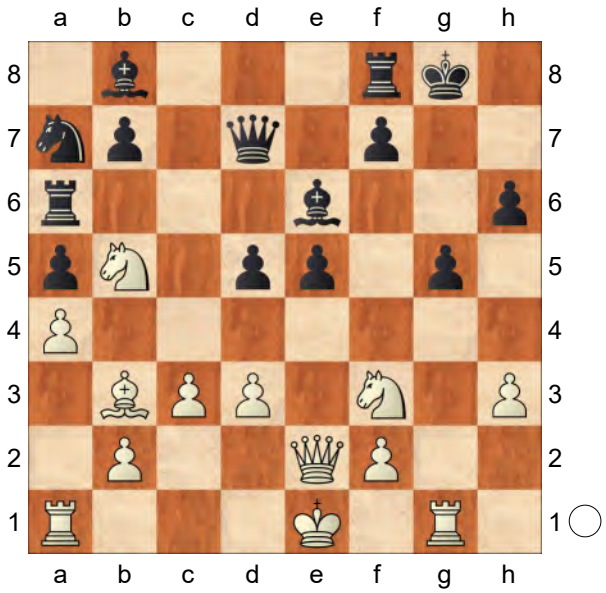
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 a5 6.a4 Bb4+ 7.c3 Bd6 8.exd5 The position is equal. **8...cxd5 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Na3 h6**
[10...Nbd7 11.Nb5 Bb8 12.d4 *(12.Bh4 Ra6 13.d4 e4 14.Nd2 Bf4 15.Nf1 Kf8 16.Ne3 g5 17.Bg3 h5 18.h4 Bxg3 19.fxg3 Qb8 20.Nf1 Bg4 21.Qc1 e3 22.hxg5 e2 23.gxf6 Rxf6 24.Ne3 Qxg3+ 25.Kd2 Re6 26.Qg1 Nf6* Rapport,R (2802)-Aravindh,C (2576) Wch Rapid Almaty 2022 (3) 1-0*)* 12...e4 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nf1 h6 15.Bh4 Bf4 16.h3 Re8 17.g3 Bb8 18.g4 Nf8 19.Ne3 Ng6 20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Bxd5 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Qg5 23.c4 Bf4 24.Qb3 h5 25.Ne3 Gazi,M (2804)-Panov Botvinnik Attack (2773) TCh-Playoffs 2001 (2) 0-1]
11.Bh4 Nc6N
[11...Nbd7 12.Nb5 Bb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Re1 Re8 15.Nd2 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6:-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.]
12.Nb5 Bb8 13.Qe2 0-0 14.h3 Qd7 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.g4 Ra6 17.Rg1 Na7 0.56/22
[17...Ne7= 0.02/17]

(Diagram)

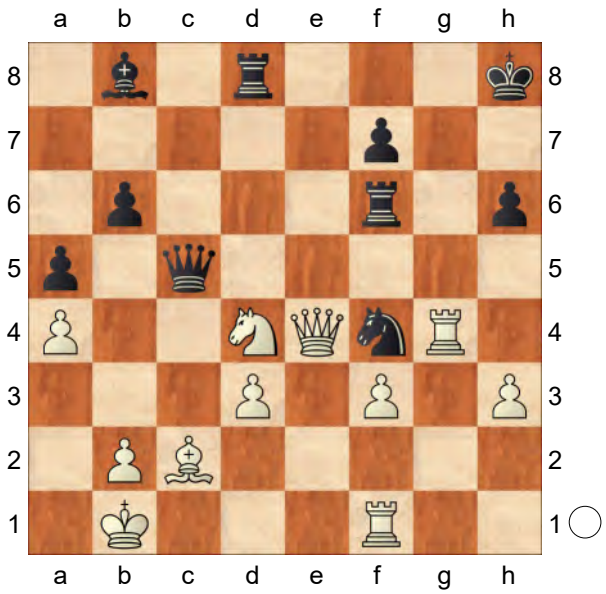


18.g5!± fxg5
[18...hxg5? 19.Nxg5 Bf5 *(19...fxg5 20.Rxg5+ Kh8 21.Qh5#)* 20.Ne4+ *(20.Ne6+ Bg6+-)* 20...Bg6 21.Nc5 Qxh3 22.Bxd5+-]



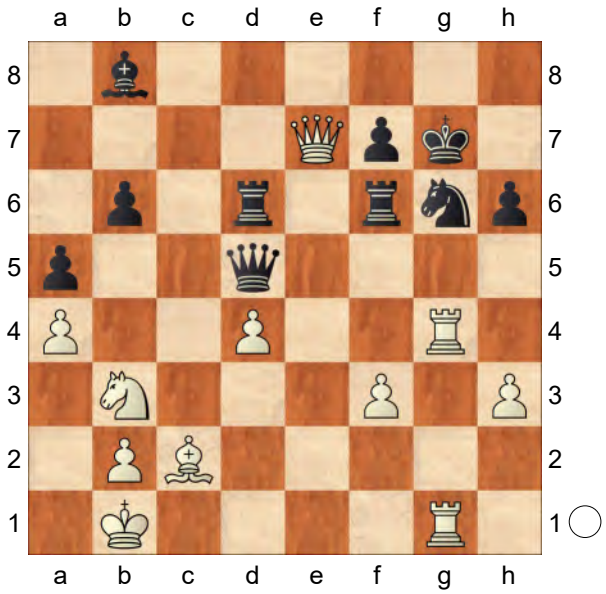
19.Nxg5 Kh8
[19...hxg5 20.Rxg5+ Kh8 21.Qh5#]
20.Nxe6 Rxe6 21.Na3 0.00/18
[21.Qg4± 0.54/19 f5 22.Qg2]
21...Rb6 0.64/20
[21...Rf6= 0.00/18]
22.Ba2 0.01/18

[White should try 22.Qf3!± 0.64/20]
22...Nc8= 23.0-0-0 Ne7 24.Nb5 Rf6 25.Qe3 Rc8 26.Kb1 Qf5 27.Rdf1 Qf4 28.Bb3→ White mounts an attack.
28...b6 29.Bd1 -0.41/22
[Better is 29.Qxf4= 0.13/22 Rxf4 30.d4]
29...Rd8 0.09/23
[29...Rg8∓ -0.41/22 30.Qxf4 Rxf4]
30.Qe2 Ng6 31.Rg4 Qf5 32.Qe3 Kh7 33.f3 Nf4 0.95/22
[33...d4= -0.06/20 remains equal. 34.Qg1 *(34.cxd4 exd4 35.Rxd4 Qxh3∓)* 34...Nf4 *(34...Qxd3+ 35.Bc2=)*]
34.Bc2± d4 35.cxd4 exd4 1.25/23
[⌓35...Nd5 0.78/20 36.Qe4 Qxe4 37.Rxe4 *(37.dxe4 Ne3∓)* 37...exd4]
36.Nxd4 Qc5 37.Qe4+ Kh8



38.Nb3 Qd5 39.d4 Ng6 40.Rfg1 Kg7? 3.33/21
[40...Qd7 1.80/20 was called for. 41.Rh4 Kg7 *(41...Bf4? 42.Rxg6* Remove Defender *fxg6 43.Rxf4+-)*]
41.Qe7 Rdd6

(Diagram)

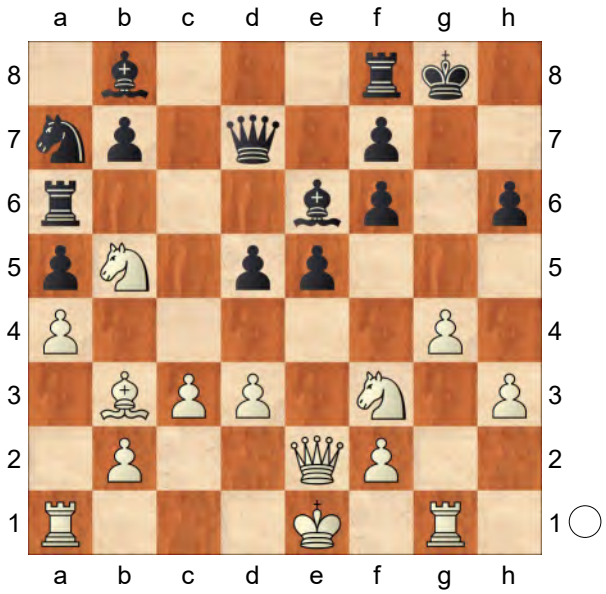


42.Qe5 Rg4xg6+ is the strong threat.
42...Kf8 43.Bxg6 fxg6 44.Qxd5 Rxd5 45.Rxg6 Kf7 46.Rg7+ Ke6 47.Re1+ Kf5 48.Re4 Bf4 49.Rg4 Bd6 50.Nd2 h5 51.Rg7 Black must now prevent Nd2-c4. **51...Bf4 52.Nc4 Rd8?** 3.83/23
[52...b5 2.08/24]
53.h4 Rc8 54.b3 Rcc6? 6.56/24
[54...Rb8 3.66/21 55.Nb2 Bh6 56.Re5+ Kf4]
55.Kc2 Rg6 56.Rf7+ Rcf6 57.Rxf6+ Rxf6+- Endgame. KRB-KRN **58.Kd3** Nc4-e3+ would now be deadly. **58...Bc7 59.Ke2** Strongly threatening Nc4-e3+. **59...Kg6 60.Ne5+ Kg7 61.Ke3 Rd6 62.Nc4 Rd7** Prevents Re4-e7+. **63.Re6 Bd8 64.Ne5**
[Less strong is 64.Nxb6 Rb7+-]
64...Rb7 65.Ng6 Rc7 66.Kd3 Against Rc7-c3+
[66.Rxb6? too greedy. Rc3+ 67.Kd2 Bxb6 68.Kxc3 Kxg6-+]
66...Rf7 4.39/23
[⌓66...Rc1 3.02/21 67.Nf4 Kf7]
67.Ke4 White is clearly winning.
67...Rb7 68.Nf4 Bxh4 69.Nxh5+ Kf8 70.Nf4 Kg8 71.Rh6 Bd8 72.Rh5 Bf6 73.Ne6 Re7 74.d5 Rd7 75.Rf5 Be7

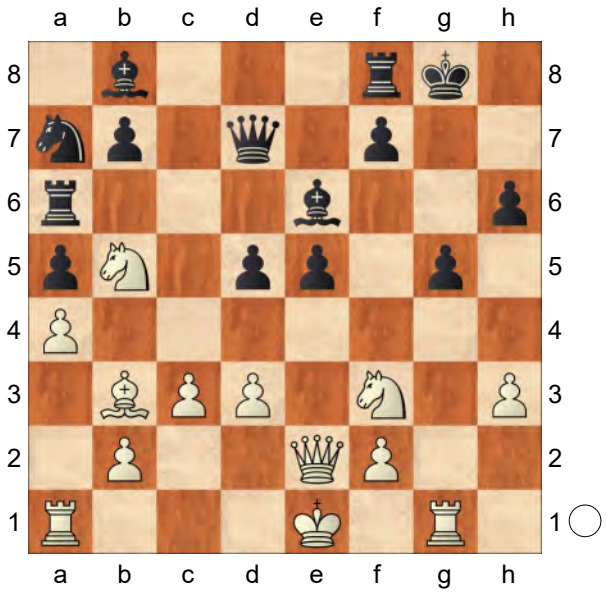
76.Kd4 b5 77.axb5 Rb7 78.Kc4 Rb8 79.Nd4 Ra8
Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.34
1-0

C24
□ **Salman,Fatima** **2752**
■ **Duerr,Hanno** **2503**
Chicago op 19th (10) 28.08.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 a5 6.a4 Bb4+ 7.c3 Bd6 8.exd5 The position is equal. **8...cxd5 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Na3 h6**
[10...Nbd7 11.Nb5 Bb8 12.d4 *(12.Bh4 Ra6 13.d4 e4 14.Nd2 Bf4 15.Nf1 Kf8 16.Ne3 g5 17.Bg3 h5 18.h4 Bxg3 19.fxg3 Qb8 20.Nf1 Bg4 21.Qc1 e3 22.hxg5 e2 23.gxf6 Rxf6 24.Ne3 Qxg3+ 25.Kd2 Re6 26.Qg1 Nf6* Salman,F (2802)-Burry,S (2576) EU-ch 12th Aix les Bains 2011 (3) 1-0 *)* 12...e4 13.Nd2 0-0 14.Nf1 h6 15.Bh4 Bf4 16.h3 Re8 17.g3 Bb8 18.g4 Nf8 19.Ne3 Ng6 20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Bxd5 Bxd5 22.Nxd5 Qg5 23.c4 Bf4 24.Qb3 h5 25.Ne3 Gazi,M (2804)-Panov Botvinnik Attack (2773) TCh-Playoffs 2001 (2) 0-1]
11.Bh4 Nc6N
[11...Nbd7 12.Nb5 Bb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Re1 Re8 15.Nd2 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6:-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.]
12.Nb5 Bb8 13.Qe2 0-0 14.h3 Qd7 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.g4 Ra6 17.Rg1 Na7 0.92/23
[17...Ne7= -0.05/18 keeps the balance.]

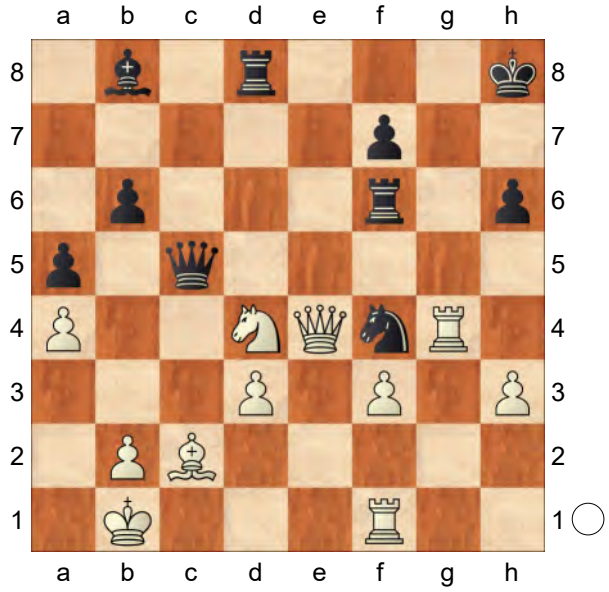


18.g5!± White is more active. **18...fxg5**
[18...hxg5 19.Nxg5 Bf5 *(19...fxg5 20.Rxg5+ Kh8 21.Qh5#)* 20.Ne6+ Bg6 21.Nc5 *(21.Nxf8 Kxf8 22.Qg4 Qxg4±)* 21...Qxh3 22.Nxa6 *(22.Bxd5 Kg7+-)* 22...bxa6 23.Bxd5±]



19.Nxg5! Kh8
[And not 19...hxg5 20.Rxg5+ Kh8 21.Qh5#]
20.Nxe6 Rxe6 21.Na3 0.02/20
[21.Nxa7± 0.51/21 Bxa7 22.0-0-0]

21...Rb6 22.Ba2 -0.01/19
[22.Qf3± 0.36/20]
22...Nc8 23.0-0-0 Ne7 24.Nb5 Rf6 25.Qe3 Rc8 26.Kb1 Qf5 27.Rdf1 Qf4 28.Bb3 b6 29.Bd1
[29.Qxf4 simplifies Rxf4 30.d4 e4 31.f3]
29...Rd8 30.Qe2 Ng6 31.Rg4 Qf5 32.Qe3⇄ White is fighting back **32...Kh7 33.f3** -0.32/21
[33.Bc2= 0.20/20]
33...Nf4 0.89/21
[33...d4!∓ -0.32/21 34.Qe1 *(34.cxd4 exd4 35.Nxd4 Qd7∓)* 34...h5 *(34...Qxd3+ 35.Bc2±)*]
34.Bc2 d4 35.cxd4 exd4 1.40/23
[Black should play 35...Ng6± 0.65/21]
36.Nxd4 1.04/23
[⌓36.Qe7 1.40/23 Ne6 37.Re1]
36...Qc5 37.Qe4+ Kh8



38.Nb3 Qd5 1.74/21
[38...Qc6± 1.06/20]
39.d4+- Ng6 40.Rfg1 Kg7? 3.83/24
[40...Qh5 1.81/20 41.f4 Bxf4]
41.Qe7 Rdd6 42.Qe5 Rg4xg6+ would now be deadly. **42...Kf8 43.Bxg6 fxg6 44.Qxd5 Rxd5 45.Rxg6 Kf7 46.Rg7+ Ke6 47.Re1+ Kf5 48.Re4 Bf4 49.Rg4 Bd6 50.Nd2 h5 51.Rg7** And now h3-h4 would win. **51...Bf4 52.Nc4** Strongly threatening h3-h4. **52...Rd8** 3.65/23
[⌓52...b5 2.28/24]
53.h4 Rc8 54.b3 Hoping for Kb1-c2. **54...Rcc6?** 6.86/24
[54...Rb8 2.87/21 55.d5 Bh6]
55.Kc2 Rg6 56.Rf7+ Rcf6 57.Rxf6+ Rxf6 Endgame. KRB-KRN **58.Kd3** Black must now prevent Nc4-e3+. **58...Bc7 59.Ke2 Kg6 60.Ne5+ Kg7 61.Ke3 Rd6 62.Nc4 Rd7** Wards off Re4-e7+ **63.Re6** Nc4-e5! is the strong threat. **63...Bd8 64.Ne5**
[Weaker is 64.Nxb6 Rb7±]
64...Rb7 65.Ng6 Rc7 66.Kd3 Prevents Rc7-c3+.
[66.Rxb6? perishes. Rc3+ 67.Kd2 Bxb6 68.Kxc3 Kxg6-+]
66...Rf7? 4.60/22
[66...Rc1 2.80/23 67.Nf4 Rh1]
67.Ke4 Rb7 68.Nf4 Bxh4 69.Nxh5+ Kf8 70.Nf4 Kg8 71.Rh6 Bd8 72.Rh5 Bf6 73.Ne6 White is clearly winning. **73...Re7 74.d5 Rd7 75.Rf5 Be7 76.Kd4 b5 77.axb5 Rb7 78.Kc4 Rb8 79.Nd4 Ra8**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.39
1-0

C55
□ **Warakomski,Tomasz** **2545**
■ **Mastrovasilis,Dimitrios** **2532**
POL-chT Ekstraliga (3.10) 09.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 h6N

[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 19.Raxd1 Deschamps,Q (2632)-Lopez Ramirez,D (2436) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (8) 1-0 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 axb4 21.Re7 Rc8 22.a5 Kf8 23.Re4 Na8 24.Rd7 Re8 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.Rxg7 h5 Chigaev,M (2632)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2737) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Feb Late blitz 2023 (5) 0-1]

5.0-0 d6 6.c3 Be7 7.Re1 0-0 8.b4 Dodges Nc6-a5 **8...a6 9.a4 Be6** 0.44/22

[9...d5= 0.05/22 10.exd5 Nxd5]

10.Bxe6± White is slightly better.

10...fxe6 11.Ra2 Qd7 12.Rd2 Qe8 13.b5 axb5 14.axb5 Nd8 15.Rb2 Qg6 16.d4 -0.62/19

[White should try 16.Be3= 0.00/23]

16...exd4!∓ 17.Nxd4 Nd7

[17...Nxe4!? 18.Qd3 d5±]

18.f4 Nc5 19.Rbe2 Bf6 -0.10/18

[19...Qh5∓ -0.59/20 is superior.]

20.Ba3= b6 21.Rf1 -0.44/23

[21.Bxc5= 0.03/19 bxc5 22.Nf3]

21...Qh5∓

[21...Nxe4?! 22.Qd3±]

22.Rf3 Ndb7 -0.42/22

[22...e5∓ -0.79/21 23.Bxc5 bxc5]

23.Nc6 Rf7 24.h3 Qg6 0.08/21

[24...Nd7∓ -0.42/17 25.c4 Na5]

25.f5 Qh5 26.fxe6 -0.81/21

[26.Bb4= -0.04/22]

26...Nxe6∓ 27.Rf5 -1.36/20

[⌓27.Qd5 -0.82/21 Qxd5 28.exd5]

27...Ng5 -0.99/19

[⌓27...Bg5 -1.36/20 Hoping for ...Nb7-a5. 28.g3 Qxh3 29.Rxf7 Kxf7 30.Rf2+ Kg8]

28.Qd3 Re8 29.Nd2 Nd8! 30.Nxd8 Bxd8

[30...Rxd8 31.Nf1=]

31.Ref2 -1.46/19

[⌓31.Qc4 -0.95/19]

31...Bf6 -0.33/21

[31...Rxf5∓ -1.46/19 32.Rxf5 Qh4]

32.Nf1 -1.19/21

[Better is 32.Bc1∓ -0.33/21]

32...Qg6!

[32...Rxe4? 33.Rxg5 Qxg5 34.Qxe4+-]

33.Ng3 -1.89/22

[33.Nd2∓ -1.25/21]

33...Be5 -0.87/21

[33...Rfe7!-+ -1.89/22 34.R2f4 Be5]

34.Rxf7 Nxf7 35.Nf5 Qe6 -0.70/18 Inhibits Qd3-c4.

[35...Ng5∓ -1.26/21 And now ... Ng5xe4! would win. 36.Kh1 Ne6]

36.Bc1∓ Bf6! 37.Re2 Qe5 -0.64/19

[37...Ne5∓ -1.00/20 38.Qd5 Qxd5 39.exd5 Ra8]

38.c4 -1.16/22

[38.g3∓ -0.64/19]

38...Qa1 -0.72/20

[Black should play 38...Ra8! -1.16/22 39.Kf2 Ra4]

39.Re1∓ Qc3 40.Qe2 -1.07/22

[40.Qxc3∓ -0.58/23 Bxc3 41.Re2]

40...Kh7 41.Rf1 Qe5! 42.Re1 Qc3

[Much weaker is 42...g6?! 43.Ne3 Qxe4 44.Rf1=]

43.Kh1 Ng5 -0.57/25 Black is more active.

[43...g6!∓ -1.29/24 44.Ne3 Rxe4]

44.Bxg5 Bxg5 45.h4! White is weak on the dark squares **45...Bf6** aiming for ... g7-g6. **46.h5 Kh8** -0.05/25

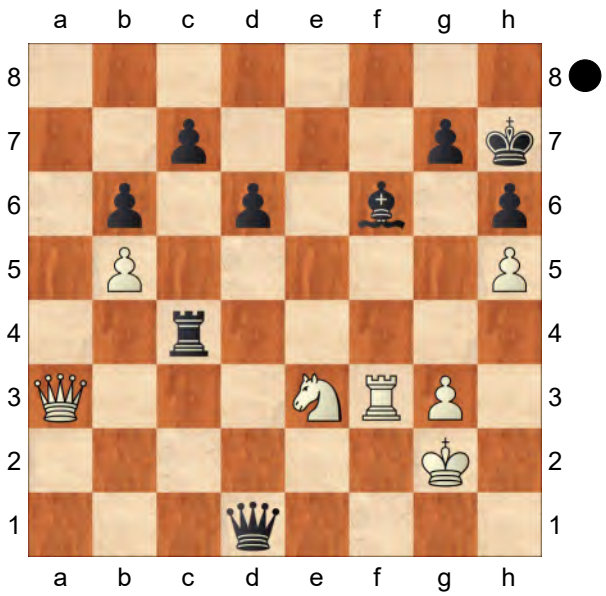
[46...Re5!∓ -1.08/24 ...Re5-c5 would now be deadly. 47.Rd1 Bg5]

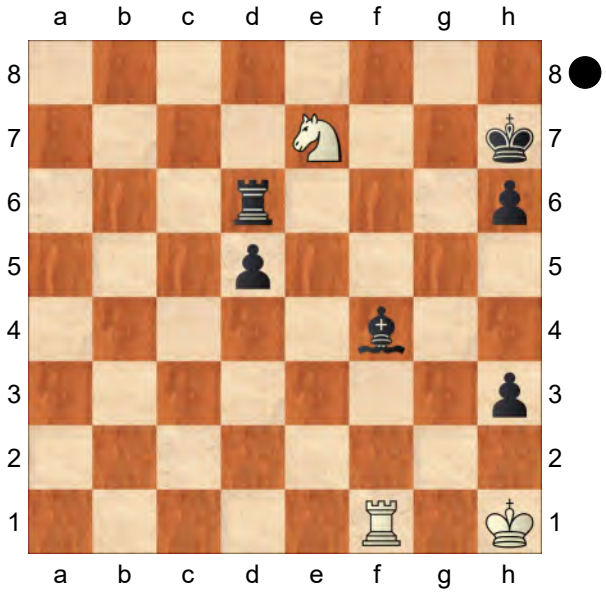
47.Kh2 Kh7 48.g3 Kh8 49.Kh3 Bg5 50.Kg4 -0.78/22

[50.Rf1= -0.04/23]
50...Bf6 -0.04/29
[50...Re5!∓ -0.78/22 With the idea ... Re5-c5. 51.Rd1 Rc5]
51.Rd1 Qe5 52.Kf3 Qc3+ 53.Qd3⇄ White is not holding back **53...Qb2 54.Qd5 Qb3+ 55.Rd3 Qb1 56.Kg4?** -3.54/24 Now White is beyond hope.
[56.Rd1!= -0.29/21 and White has nothing to worry. Qb4 57.Rd2]
56...Re5-+ 57.Qa8+ -6.71/24
[57.Rd1 -2.89/19 Qxe4+ 58.Qxe4 Rxe4+ 59.Kh3]
57...Kh7 58.Re3 Qd1+ 59.Rf3 Qe2 60.Qa3 Rxe4+ 61.Kh3 Qd1 -4.69/21
[⌓61...Qe1 -9.45/23 62.Kg2 Re2+ *(62...Rxc4? 63.Qe3-+)* 63.Kh3 Qh1+ 64.Kg4 Re4+ 65.Rf4 g6]
62.Kg2 Re2+ -8.22/22
[62...Rxc4 63.Ne3 Qd2+ 64.Rf2∓]
[⌓62...d5 -4.99/20 63.Rf2 dxc4 *(63...Qxh5? 64.Qd3-+)*]
63.Kh3 Re4 -4.49/21
[⌓63...Qh1+ -11.09/19 64.Kg4 Re4+ 65.Rf4 g6]
64.Kg2 Rxc4 -3.37/18
[⌓64...Re2+ -7.18/19 65.Rf2 Rxf2+ Discovered Attack 66.Kxf2 Qc2+ *(66...Qxh5? 67.Qf3-+)* 67.Ke3 Qxf5]
65.Ne3

(Diagram)

Qd2+! 66.Rf2 Rc3 67.Rxd2 Rxa3 Endgame. KRB-KRN **68.Nd5 Be5 69.Nxc7 Rxg3+ 70.Kf1 Rb3 71.Rd5 g6 72.Na8** -5.48/19
[⌓72.hxg6+ -3.78/21 Kxg6 73.Na8]
72...gxh5 73.Nxb6 h4 74.Nc4 h3 75.Rd1 Rxb5 76.Kg1 Rb8 77.Kh1 Bf4 Threatens to win with ...d6-d5! **78.Rf1 Bg3 79.Rg1 d5 80.Na5 Bf4 81.Nc6 Rb6 82.Ne7 Rd6 83.Rf1**

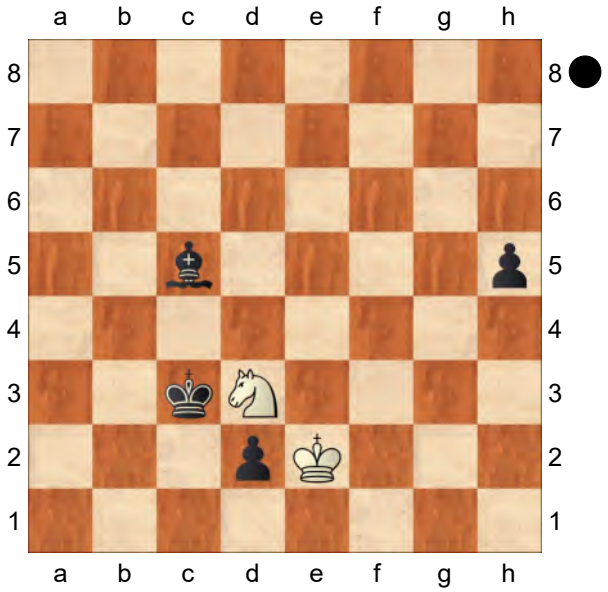




Bg5! 84.Rf7+ Kh8 85.Rf8+ -8.41/43
[⌓85.Nf5 -4.03/22 Rd8 86.Nd4]
85...Kg7 86.Nf5+ Kxf8 87.Nxd6 KB-KN **87...d4** Strongly threatening ... Bg5-f4. **88.Ne4 Bf4** White must now prevent ...d4-d3. **89.Nf2 Kf7 90.Nd3 Bd6 91.Nf2 Ke6 92.Nxh3 d3 93.Nf2 d2 94.Kg2 Bc5 95.Nd1 h5 96.Kf3 Ke5** -24.34/22
[⌓96...Kf5 -#51/22 97.Ke2 h4 *(97...Bb4? 98.Ne3+ Ke4 99.Nf1-+)* 98.Kf3 Ke5 99.Ke2 h3 100.Kf3 Kd4 101.Kg3 Kd3 102.Kxh3 Kc2

103.Kg4 Kxd1 104.Kf3 Kc2 105.Kg4 d1Q+ *(105...d1R* is a self mate. *106.Kg5 Rd5+ 107.Kg6 Kd3 108.Kg7 Ke4 109.Kg6 Rd6+ 110.Kg7 Kf5 111.Kf7 Kg5 112.Ke7 Kg6 113.Ke8 Kf6 114.Kf8 Rd8#)* 106.Kf5 Qh5+ 107.Ke6 Qg6+ 108.Kd5 Ba3 109.Ke5 Kd3 110.Kf4 Bd6+ 111.Kf3 Qg3#]

97.Nb2 Kd4 98.Ke2 Kc3 (-> ...Kc3-c2!) **99.Nd3**



d1Q+!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.47/ Black=0.25 (precise)

0-1

C24

□ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2736**

■ **So,Wesley** **2770**

chess.com (Int.-m/11-blitz) 147/(91) 2020

[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

Scrambling/resourceful players

Scrambling is a key requirement in golf, particularly on tough courses, as at some point you will be faced with a difficult shot out of a bad lie, or you will be stuck in the bunker with very little green to work with. The players who are most able to achieve a decent score when they are playing badly, or when conditions are tough, are described as "grinders." Jordan Spieth, in his prime, was an example of a golfer who was able to fashion a score out of an otherwise patchy round. Tiger Woods is the greatest grinder of all time in golf and it's no coincidence that such a quality is also associated with mental toughness. In chess the ability to be resourceful is all-important and in truth, all the greatest players in history have been incredibly tough to beat. I could have filled the top three with world champions, but have decided to focus on those players where this skill is an outstanding quality of their game: 1. Viswanathan Anand 2. Emanuel Lasker 3. Hikaru Nakamura Anand clearly inspired a generation of players, because whenever you come up against any Indian player online they seem to pride themselves in being hard to beat and are indeed incredibly tough to pin down; to the extent where that tactical trickiness almost becomes infuriating and I gnash and scream at my inability to put away winning positions. I had an old British chess magazine from the 1990s and it described a heavyweight confrontation between Kasparov and a leather jacketed Anand in Linares, where Kasparov had the upper hand but was unable to complete the job on his slippery opponent, thus provoking the ire of the champion. It appears that nothing ever changes. As time controls get ever faster the resourceful players are coming to the fore, and their poster boy is surely

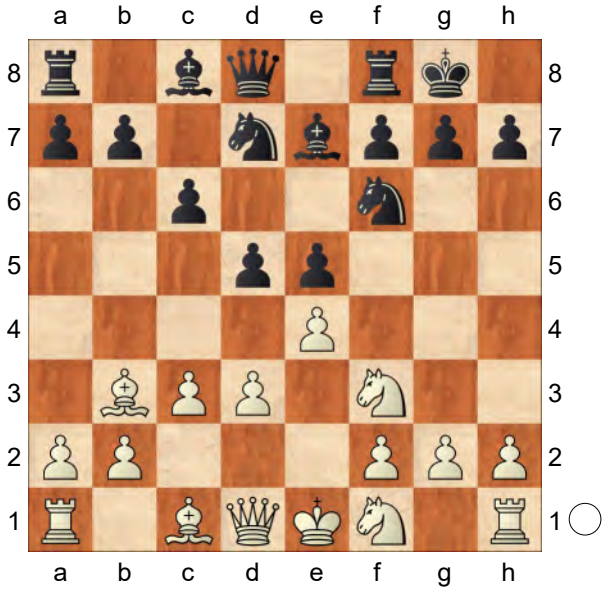
Hikaru Nakamura. Of late Naka has reinvented himself as a streamer and like Alexandra Botez, has "blown up" because of the pandemic and hype surrounding the TV series "Queens Gambit". I doubt it's an exaggeration to say that Naka makes at least several hundred thousand dollars a year from Twitch and other Internet income, and probably gets more from these sources than he does from being a player. Fair play, and you wonder if this trend will continue in the future with more elite players going down the Naka path, tempted by the riches of Twitch and Youtube. If it does then the danger is that it creates a comfort zone for the player where he or she makes so much more from external sources than they do from their original income, and because of that the playing side is neglected. Naka's internet and blitz game remain as strong as ever, but his classical results have suffered. It would be a pity if that side of his career dwindled away to nothing. What makes Naka such a lethal exponent of blitz is highly-attuned intuition combined with unerring calculation. **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Bb3 0-0 6.Nbd2 d6 7.Nf1?!** -0.29/24

[⩲7.c3 0.25/24]

7...Nbd7= * 8.c3N

[8.a3 d5 9.N1d2 Nc5 10.Qe2 Nxb3 11.Nxb3 dxe4 12.dxe4 Qc7 13.0-0 h6 14.h3 Be6 15.Bd2 a5 16.Bc3 Nd7 17.Nc1 b5 18.Nd3 Bd6 19.Nh4 Rfe8 20.Rad1 c5 21.Bd2 c4 22.Nc1 b4 Osnos,V (2736)-Mittag,L (2620) Paris 1859 1-0 23.axb4 axb4 24.Be3 Bf8 25.Qf3 Qc6 26.Rfe1 g6 27.Ne2 Be7 28.g3 Nf6 29.Bxh6 Bxh3 30.Qh1 Bg4 31.f3 Be6 32.Nc1 Ra1 33.Ng2 Rb1 34.b3 Rb2 35.Re2 cxb3 36.cxb3 Rxe2 37.Nxe2 Bxb3 Nakamura,H (2736)-Martinez Alcantara,J (2620) chess.com (Internet-blitz) 2020 1-0]

8...d5 Diagram



9.Bc2N

[9.Qe2]

9...dxe4 10.dxe4 Nc5 0.01/23

[10...Qc7∓ -0.38/22 feels stronger.]

11.Qxd8= The position is equal.

11...Rxd8 12.Ng3 Re8 13.0-0 Bf8 14.b4 Ncd7∞

Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

C24

□ **Paravyan,David** **2620**

■ **Seemann,Jakub** **2489**

Titled Tuesday intern op 24th Sep Early blitz (9)

[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.a4

[4.Nf3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3

13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 Chigaev,M (2632)-Madaminov,M (2436) Titled Tuesday intern op 14th Feb Early blitz 2023 (8) 1-0]

4...Bc5N

[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Nbd2 f6 8.0-0 Qd7 9.h3 Be6 10.a5 a6 11.Re1 0-0-0 12.Ne4 h6 13.c3 f5 14.Ng3 f4 15.Nf1 g5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Rxe5 c6 18.Bd2 Bd6 19.Re1 9.b3 ♖e8 10.h3_68766 (2526)-Holtman,T (2568) Dortmund Sparkassen op 50th 2023 0-1 Rhg8 20.Nh2 g4 21.Nxg4 Bxg4 22.hxg4 Rxg4 23.Qf3 Rdg8 24.Kf1 Rxg2 25.d4 Rh2 26.Bxd5 cxd5 27.Qxd5 Rgg2 28.Qf3 Rxf2+ 29.Qxf2 Qh3+ 30.Kg1 Rh1# Kantans,T (2526)-Heberla,B (2568) Polska 154/100 2022 0-1]

5.Be3 Bxe3 6.fxe3 d6 7.Nf3 Qe7 8.0-0 White has an edge. **8...Be6 9.Nbd2 Bxc4 10.Nxc4 0-0 11.c3 a5 12.Nh4 g6 13.Qf3 Kg7 14.Qg3** Nh4-f5+ would now be deadly. **14...Kh8 15.Qg5 Ng8 16.Qg4**

[16.Qxe7 simplifies Ngxe7 17.Nf3 Kg7 18.d4]

16...Qe6 0.23/18

[16...Nd8 -0.13/19 should be considered.]

17.Qxe6= fxe6 18.Rxf8 Rxf8 19.Nf3 Nf6 20.Rb1 Rb8 21.Ng5 And now Rb1-f1! would win. **21...d5** 0.88/26

[21...Nd8!= 0.08/22]

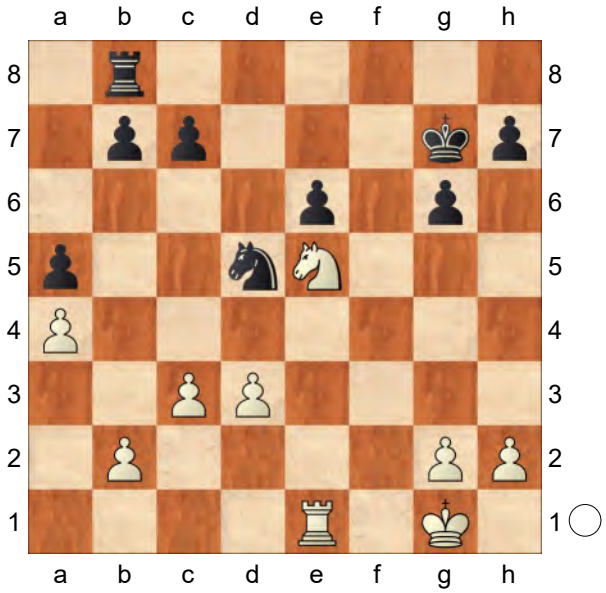
22.Nf7+ Kg7 23.exd5

[23.Nfxe5? dxc4 24.Nxc4 e5∓]

23...Nxd5 1.61/23

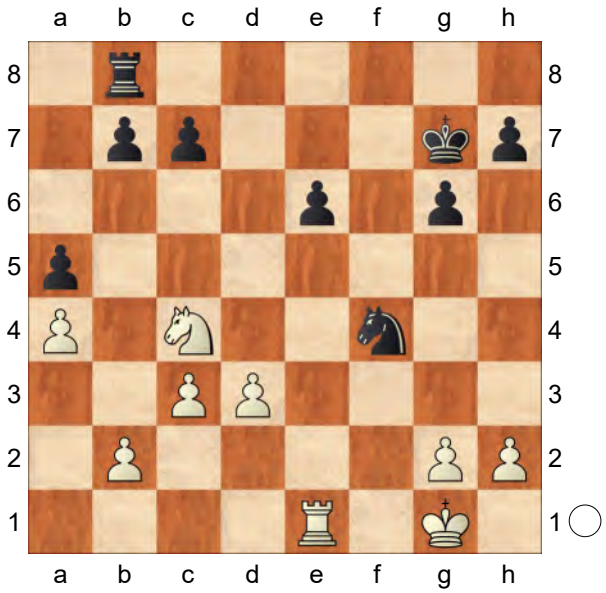
[23...exd5± 0.95/25 was called for. 24.Ncxe5 *(24.Nfxe5? dxc4 25.Nxc4 Re8-+)* 24...Nxe5 25.Nxe5 b5]

24.Nfxe5 Nxe5 25.Nxe5 aiming for e3-e4. **25...Nxe3±** Endgame. KRN-KRN **26.Re1! Nd5**



27.Nc4! Nf4 1.65/25

[27...b5± 1.25/28 28.axb5 *(28.Nxa5 bxa4 29.Nc4 Nb6=)* 28...Nf4]



28.d4 0.70/19

[Weaker is 28.Nxa5 Nxd3 29.Rxe6 Nxb2=]

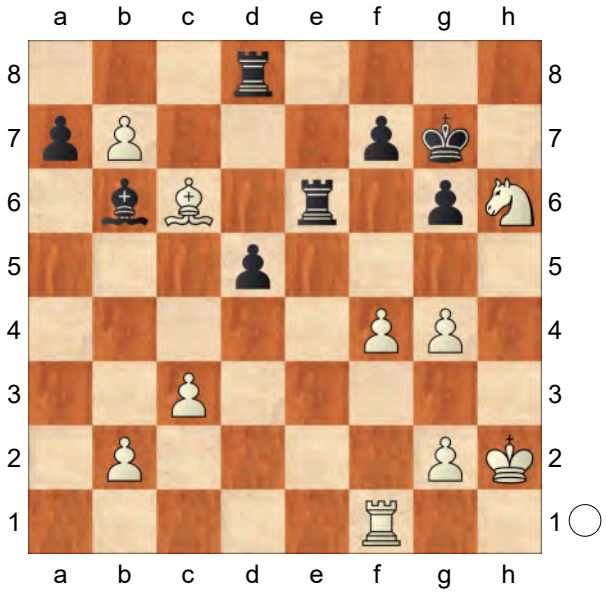
[28.Re3!+- 1.65/25]

28...b5± 29.axb5 Rxb5 30.Ra1 0.00/28

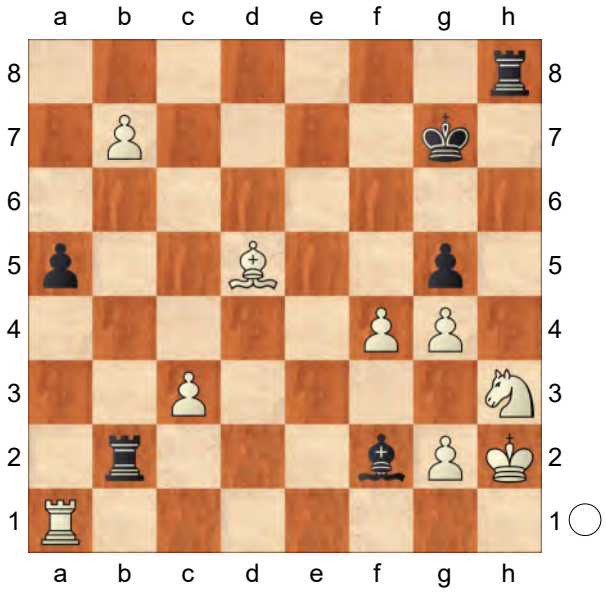
[30.Re5!± 0.62/23 Rxe5 31.Nxe5]
30...Nd3= 31.Ra2 c5 32.dxc5 Rxc5 33.Nxa5 Re5 34.h3 h5 0.37/23
[34...Re2= -0.02/26]
35.Nc4 Re1+ 36.Kh2 h4 37.b4 Threatens to win with b4-b5. **37...Rc1! 38.Ne3 Rxc3 39.b5 Rb3 40.Ra7+ Kf6 41.Ng4+ Kg5 42.Re7 Kf5 43.Rf7+ Ke4 44.Rf6 e5 45.b6 Rb1 46.Rxg6 Nf4 47.Rh6 Rb2 48.Rxh4 Nxg2 49.Rh8 Nf4+ 50.Kg3?** -7.66/19
[50.Kg1= -0.04/20]
50...Rg2+-+ Black is clearly winning.
[And not 50...Rxb6 51.Nf2+ Kd5 52.Rd8+ Ke6 53.Re8+ Kf5 54.Rf8+ Kg5 55.Ne4+ Kg6 56.Rxf4 exf4+ 57.Kxf4=]
51.Kh4 Ng6+ 52.Kg5 Nxh8 What a bad dream for White.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)
0-1

C27
□ **Salman,Fatima** **2731**
■ **Hantel,Thomas** **2777**
ARG I15 corr (6) 18.01.2019
[Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 c6 5.Nf3 d6 6.h3 0-0 7.0-0 Re8N
[7...Nbd7 8.a3 Bb6 9.Ba2 Re8 10.Re1 Nf8 11.Be3 Be6 12.d4 Bxa2 13.Rxa2 exd4 14.Bxd4 Ba5 15.b4 Bb6 16.Ra1 Ne6 17.Bxb6 axb6 18.a4 Qc7 19.Qd3 Rad8 20.Rad1 Nf4 21.Qd2 Ne6 22.Qd3 Amin,B (2694)-Yu,Y (2735) Biel 56th 2023 (7) ½-½]
8.Ne2 Nbd7 9.Ng3 Nf8 0.25/26
[⌓9...d5 -0.19/22 10.Bb3 Bb6]
10.c3= Bb6 11.Bb3 Be6 12.a4 d5 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.d4 Ng6 16.a5 Bc7 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Nd4 Rad8 0.24/21
[⌓18...Nc4 -0.14/21]
19.f4 Qg6 20.Ngf5 -0.52/22
[20.Kh2= 0.24/21 dxe4 21.Bxe6 *(21.fxe5? Bxe5 22.Qe1 Bxb3-+)* 21...fxe6 22.fxe5]
20...Nd7
[20...Nc4 simplifies 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.exd5 cxd5 23.Bxc4 dxc4 24.Nd4 e5]
21.a6 Nc5 22.axb7 -1.50/20
[22.Nxe6∓ -0.59/22 Rxe6 *(22...fxe6 23.Nd4∓)* 23.Nd4]
22...Nxe4 23.Qg4 Bxf5 24.Nxf5 Qxg4 -0.53/21
[24...Qf6-+ -1.85/20 25.Ng3 Nxg3 *(25...Nd2 26.Bc2=)* 26.Qxg3 Rb8]
25.hxg4∓ Nd2 26.Ba4 And now Rf1-d1 would win. **26...Bb6+** Deflection **27.Kh2**
[27.Nd4!? Nxf1 28.Kxf1=]
27...Nxf1+ 28.Rxf1 Re6 -0.01/20
[28...g6 29.Nd4± *(29.Nxh6+ Kg7∓)*]
[28...Re4∓ -0.49/21 29.Bxc6 Bc7]
29.Bxc6!= Decoy, Promotion **29...g6 30.Nxh6+ Kg7**



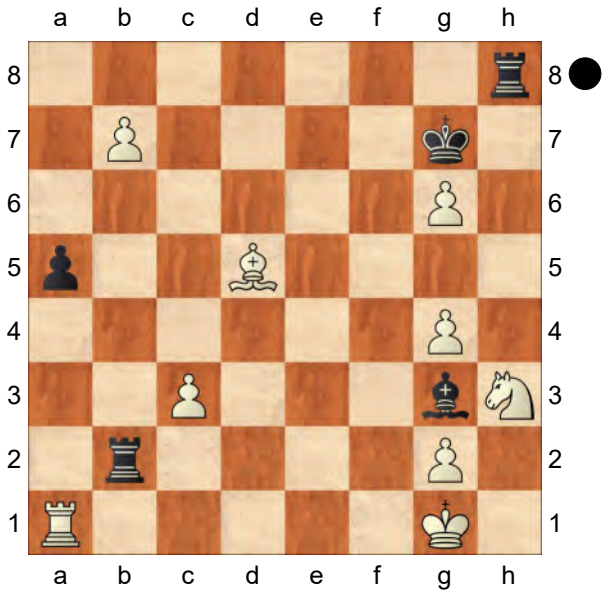
31.Bxd5 Deflection, Promotion
31...Ree8
[31...Kxh6 32.Bxe6 fxe6 33.Rd1+-]
32.Bxf7 Re2 0.50/24
[32...Re7= 0.14/22 might be stronger.]
33.Bc4± Rxb2 34.Nf7 Rb8 35.Ng5! Bf2 2.08/21
[Black should try 35...Rxb7± 0.70/19 36.Re1 Ba5]
36.Bd5!+- a5 37.Ra1 Rh8+ 38.Nh3 g5



39.fxg5 0.04/21
[White should play 39.f5!± 1.15/21 Bb6 40.Kg3]
39...Bb6= 40.Re1 White wants to mate with Re1-e7+. **40...Bc7+ 41.Kg1 Bd6** Prevents Re1-e7+. Black has compensation. **42.Ra1 Bg3 43.g6?** -2.77/18
[43.Rxa5? Rb1#]
[43.Bc6!∓ -0.48/18]

(Diagram)

43...a4!-+ 44.Kf1? -2.94/23
[44.Rxa4? Rb1#]



[44.Be4 a3 45.Rf1 *(45.Rxa3? Re2-+)* 45...Rf8]
[44.Bf7∓ -1.43/20]
44...Re8 45.Ng5 -0.91/19
[45.Rxa4? Re1#]
[45.b8R-+ -2.31/21 Rbxb8 *(45...Rexb8 46.Rxa4 Rf8+ 47.Bf3=)* 46.Ng5]
45...Re5 -0.01/21
[45...a3∓ -0.91/19 46.Bf7 *(46.Rxa3? Re1#; 46.Ne6+? Kxg6 47.Ra2 Rxa2-+)* 46...Ree2 47.Ne6+ *(47.Rxa3? Re1#)* 47...Kf6 48.g5+ Ke7]
46.Ne4!= Black must now prevent c3-c4. The position is equal.
[46.Rxa4? Re1#]
[46.Ne6+ Kxg6 47.Bc4 *(47.Rxa4? Re1#; 47.c4? a3-+)* 47...Rxb7∓]
46...Rxd5 47.Nxg3 Endgame. KRR-KRN **47...Rdd2** Threatens to win with ... a4-a3. **48.Nf5+**
[48.Rxa4? Rd1#]
[48.Ne4 Rdc2 49.Nc5 Rf2+ *(49...Kxg6 50.Nd3=; 49...Rxc3?* loses. *50.Nxa4 Rcb3 51.Nxb2+-)* 50.Kg1 *(50.Ke1 Rxg2 51.Kf1 Rh2∓)* 50...Rxg2+ 51.Kh1 Rgd2

(51...Kxg6? 52.b8Q+-; 51...Rxg4 52.Rxa4 Rb1+ 53.Kh2∓) 52.Nxa4 Rxb7-+]

48...Kf6 aiming for ...a4-a3. **49.g7**

[49.Rxa4? Rd1#]

49...Kf7 50.Re1

[50.Rxa4? Rd1#]

50...Rxb7 Strongly threatening ...a4-a3. **51.g5** Hoping for g5-g6+! **51...Rd8** ...a4-a3 would now be deadly. **52.Ra1 Ra7 53.Ra3 Kg6 54.g4 Kxg5 55.c4 Rb8 56.Ke2 Ra6 57.Kd2** Nf5-e7 is the strong threat. **57...Rg8 58.Kc3 Kxg4**

[58...Rf6 feels hotter. 59.Ra1 a3 60.Rxa3 Kxg4 61.Ne3+ Kf3]

59.Nd4 Rxg7 60.Kb4 Rga7 61.Nb5 Ra8 62.Nc3 Rb8+ 63.Nb5 Rc8 64.Rxa4 Rxa4+ 65.Kxa4 Rxc4+ KR-KN **66.Kb3 Rc8 67.Kb4 Kf4 68.Nd6 Rc6 69.Nb5 Ke4 70.Nc3+ Kd4 71.Nb5+ Kd3 72.Kb3 Rc4 73.Na3 Rc1 74.Kb4 Rh1 75.Nb5 Rh5 76.Nd6 Kd4 77.Nb5+ Kd5 78.Nc3+ Kc6 79.Kc4 Rh4+ 80.Kd3 Kc5 81.Ne4+ Kd5 82.Nc3+ Ke5 83.Nb5 Rg4 84.Nc3 Rb4 85.Ne2 Kd6 86.Nc3 Rh4 87.Ne4+ Ke5 88.Nc3 Rd4+ 89.Ke3 Rd8 90.Ne2 Rh8 91.Kd3 Rh3+ 92.Kc4 Rh2 93.Kd3 Rxe2 94.Kxe2** A wild game.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)

½-½

C24

□ **Radjabov,Teimour** **2757**

■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2738**

81st Tata Steel GpA (5.2) 16.01.2019

[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

Slavisa Brenjo: 'Current Reputation: Playable for both sides Wei Yi's incredible talent and composure far beyond his tender age were at full display in Baku, so examining his opening choices is sure a matter of interest for all serious chess fans. Solving the symmetrical response against e4 is a conditio sine qua non for anyone playing at the top level and the Bishop's Opening is hardly a common choice, so let's see what's going on in the more or less main line of this offbeat opening.' **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 a5**

[7...Qd6 8.Qg5 Nbd7 9.exd5 cxd5 10.Nh4 Nc5 11.Qxg7 Rg8 12.Qh6 a5 13.Nc3 Ra6 14.a4 Qe7 15.g3 Nxb3 16.cxb3 d4 17.Nb5 Ne4 18.Qxh7 Qb4+ 19.Kf1 Nf6 20.Qh6 Nd5 21.Qh5 Bh3+ 22.Kg1 Watson,F (2509)-9. ♘f3 ♘bd7 10.b4 c6 (2490) PLAN d6-e5-c6 Moscow-ch 1952 [1] 0-1]

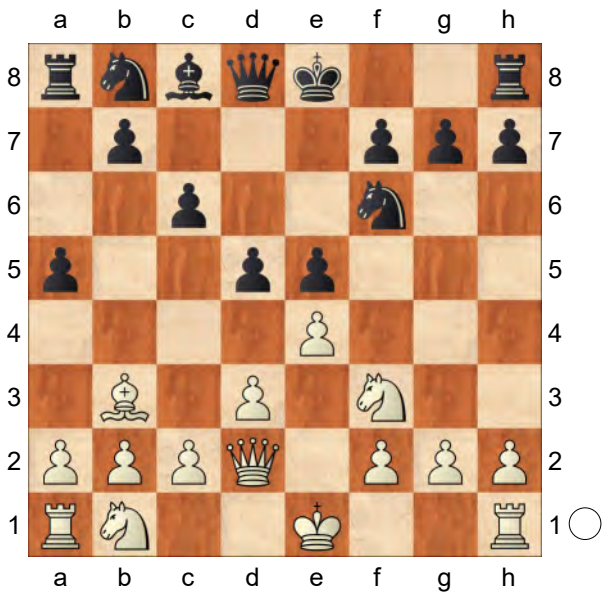
[7...0-0 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 f6 10.h3 Be6 11.Nc3 Nf4 12.d4 Bxb3 13.axb3 Na6 14.Ra4 Qd7 15.dxe5 Qxd2 16.Nxd2 fxe5 17.Nc4 Nc5 18.Raa1 Ng6 19.Rfe1 e4 20.Nxe4 Nxe4 21.Rxe4 a6 22.Na5 C1: 5 h3 (2530)-5. ♘f3 00 6. ♗e3 c5 (2073) World Championship Match, 8th Game 27 (3) 1-0]

(Diagram)

...a5-a4 is the strong threat. **8.a4** The position is equal.

[8.Nxe5? perishes. a4 *(8...dxe4? 9.Nxf7 Qe7 10.Nxh8+-)* 9.Bc4 dxc4 10.Nxc4 b5-+]

8...0-0 9.exd5 Nxd5N 0.37/21



[9...cxd5= 0.00/23 10.Nxe5 Nc6 11.f4 Re8 12.0-0 Nxe5 13.fxe5 Rxe5 14.Nc3 h6 15.Rae1 Rg5 16.Rf3 Bg4 17.Rf4 Bh3 18.Rf2 Qb6 19.d4 Be6 Make Way For Yi Wei,S-Bishop'S Opening,Q 348 Linz 2015]

10.0-0± f6 11.h3 Be6 12.d4 e4 13.Re1 Bxh3 1.08/22 **14.Rxe4± Bf5 15.Re2 Kh8 16.Nc3 b6 17.Rae1 Ra7 18.Nxd5 cxd5 19.Qf4 Bg6** 2.07/22

[19...Be4 1.68/23 is a better defense. 20.Qh2 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Nc6]

20.c3 Rd7 2.25/21

[20...Bf7± 1.37/19 21.Bc2 Nc6]

21.Nh4

(Diagram)

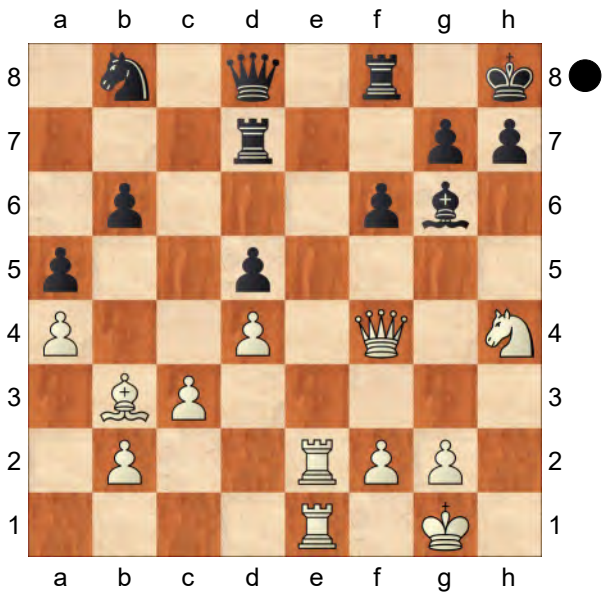
Hoping for Nh4xg6+. **21...Bh5 22.Re3** 0.95/20

[22.Qh2+- 2.40/20]

22...g5 23.Qf5 And now g2-g4 would win. **23...Nc6 24.Nf3 Ne7 25.Qb1** White has more active pieces. **25...Ng6 26.Bc2**

[26.Bd1 is interesting. Rg7 27.Nxg5 Nh4 28.Bxh5 Rxg5 29.Bf3]

26...Rg7 27.Bf5 Ne7 28.Bd3 Ng6



29.Bf5 Ne7! 30.Bd3 Ng6 White really could win this.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)

½-½

C50

□ **Warakomski,Tomasz** **2545**

■ **Heberla,Bartlomiej** **2501**

POL-chT Ekstraliga (9.28) 15.10.2024

[Kitty Kat]

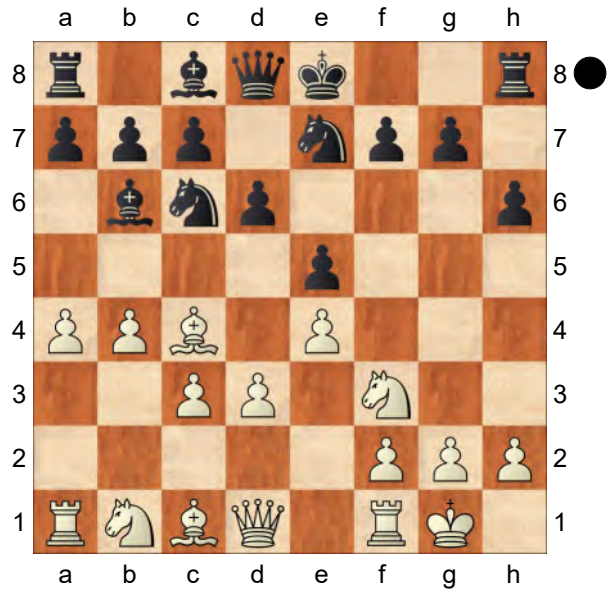
C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.Nf3 d6 4.0-0N

[4.d3 Nf6 *(4...Be6 5.Nbd2 Bxc4 6.Nxc4 Nf6 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.c3 b5 9.Na5 Nb8 10.a4 c6 11.axb5 cxb5 12.Qb3 a6 13.d4 exd4 14.cxd4 Bb6 15.e5 dxe5 16.dxe5 Ne4 17.e6 f6 18.Be3 Nc5 19.Bxc5* Buse,D (2502)-Ramoutar,A (2181) Chapter 4 (12) (6. 14) 1-0 *)* 5.Nc3 Be6 6.Bb3 Nbd7 7.Ng5 Bxb3 8.axb3 h6 9.Nf3 a6 10.Na4 Ba7 11.b4 Qe7 12.Bd2 b5 13.Nc3 c6 14.0-0 0-0 15.Nh4 Nh7 16.Nf5 Qf6 17.Qg4 Kh8 18.h4

Rfd8 Brakmanis,M-Volchok,A COL GP U16 Bilin 2008]
[4.c3 Qe7 5.0-0 Nf6 6.d3 a6 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.Bb3 h6 9.Nc4 Kh7 10.d4 b5 11.dxc5 bxc4 12.cxd6 cxd6 13.Bxc4 Bb7 14.Bd5 Nxd5 15.exd5 Nd7 16.c4 a5 17.b3 f5 18.Re1 Qf7 Samostrol,E (1740)-Faerman,I 4NCL Sunningdale ENG 2007 (7) 0-1 19.Ba3 Ra6 20.Qe2 g5 21.Bxd6 Rxd6 22.Nxe5 Qf6 23.Nd3 Rf7 24.Qe8 f4 25.Ne5 Re7 26.Ng4 Rxe8 27.Nxf6+ Nxf6 28.Rxe8 Nxe8 29.Re1 Ng7 30.Re7 Bc8 31.Ra7 Ra6 32.Rc7 Bf5 33.c5 Kg6 Rath,M (1740)-Doerfler,E Regionalliga SO 9697 1996 (7) 0-1]

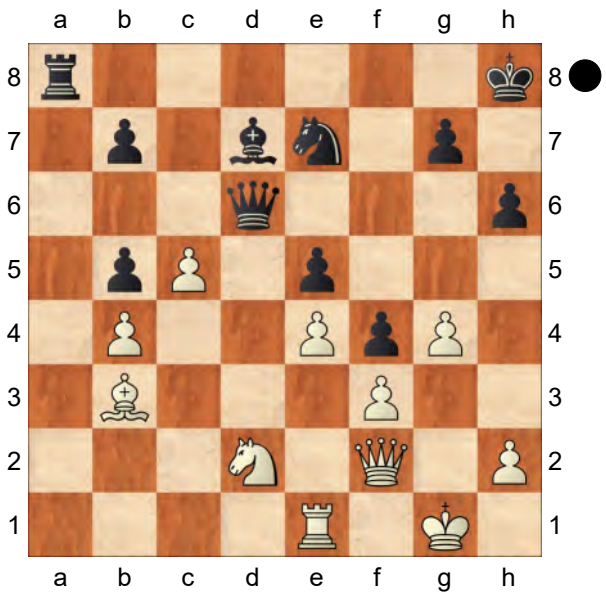
4...Nc6 5.c3 Bb6 6.d3 h6 7.b4 is more profitable than 7.Nbd2 at the moment. scheint profitabler als 7.Sbd2. **7...Nge7 8.a4**



Strongly threatening a4-a5. White is slightly better. **8...a6! 9.Qb3**
[9.a5!? Ba7□ 10.Na3=]
9...0-0 10.Be3 Ng6 11.Nbd2 Qf6 12.Bxb6N
[12.Qb2 Nf4 13.Kh1 Bg4 14.a5 Ba7 15.b5 Nd8 1.49/20 *(15...axb5± 0.45/19 16.Qxb5 Nd8)* 16.b6± Bb8 17.d4 c6 2.11/18 *(17...cxb6± 1.55/17 was necessary. 18.axb6 Be6)* 18.d5+- cxd5 19.exd5 Shuvalova,P (2487)-Lagno,K (2532) RUS-ch (Women) 74th 2024 (9) 1-0]
12...cxb6 13.Rfe1 Nf4 14.Re3 Qg6 15.g3 Kh8 16.Nh4 Qh5 17.Qd1 -0.42/23
[17.Kh1= 0.03/17]
17...Bg4 18.f3 Bd7 19.Qe1 Ng6 0.22/22
[19...g5 -0.25/22 is more appropriate. 20.Ng2 Nh3+ 21.Kh1 Qg6]
20.Nxg6+ Qxg6 21.Qf2 -0.24/19
[⌓21.b5 0.14/20 Na5 22.Kg2]
21...Ne7!= 22.Ree1 b5 23.axb5 axb5 24.Bb3 f5 0.42/26
[24...Rac8∓ -0.50/21 25.Rac1 Rc7]
25.Rxa8± Rxa8 26.d4 -0.65/19
[26.exf5± 0.46/20 Nxf5 27.f4]
26...f4∓ 27.dxe5 White is on the road to losing. **27...dxe5 28.g4 Qc6 29.c4** -1.83/18
[29.Qc5∓ -0.76/19 was called for. Qxc5+ 30.bxc5]
29...Qd6-+ 30.c5 -2.79/19
[⌓30.cxb5 -1.70/20 Bxb5 *(30...Qxb4 31.Bc4∓)* 31.Rb1]

(Diagram)

30...Qd3! 31.Rd1 Nc6 32.Bd5 Nd4 33.Kh1 g5 34.Bxb7 Ra2 35.c6 Be6 Black is clearly winning.
[Stronger than 35...Nxc6 36.Qc5 Qe2 *(36...Rxd2 37.Rxd2 Qf1+ 38.Qg1=)* 37.Qf8+ Kh7 38.Rf1 *(38.Qf7+ Kh8=)* 38...Qxd2 *(38...Rxd2 39.Qf7+ Kh8 40.Qf8+ Kh7 41.Qf7+ Kh8 42.Qf8+ Kh7=)* 39.Qf7+ Kh8 40.Qf8+ Kh7 41.Qf7+ Kh8 42.Qf8+



Kh7=]

36.c7 Qc2 37.Rf1 Qxd2 38.Qxd2 Rxd2 39.c8Q+ Bxc8 40.Bxc8 Rb2 41.Bb7 Rxb4 42.Rf2 Rc4

Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.15 (very precise)

0-1

		C24
□	**Nakamura,Hikaru**	**2736**
■	**Martinez Alcantara,Jose Eduard**	**2620**
chess.com (Internet-blitz)		2020

[Gormally,Daniel, MH]

Scrambling/resourceful players

Scrambling is a key requirement in golf, particularly on tough courses, as at some point you will be faced with a difficult shot out of a bad lie, or you will be stuck in the bunker with very little green to work with. The players who are most able to achieve a decent score when they are playing badly, or when conditions are tough, are described as "grinders." Jordan Spieth, in his prime, was an example of a golfer who was able to fashion a score out of an otherwise patchy round. Tiger Woods is the greatest grinder of all time in golf and it's no coincidence that such a quality is also associated with mental toughness. In chess the ability to be resourceful is all-important and in truth, all the greatest players in history have been incredibly tough to beat. I could have filled the top three with world champions, but have decided to focus on those players where this skill is an outstanding quality of their game: 1. Viswanathan Anand 2. Emanuel Lasker 3. Hikaru Nakamura Anand clearly inspired a generation of players, because whenever you come up against any Indian player online they seem to pride themselves in being hard to beat and are indeed incredibly tough to pin down; to the extent where that tactical trickiness almost becomes infuriating and I gnash and scream at my inability to put away winning positions. I had an old British chess magazine from the 1990s and it described a heavyweight confrontation between Kasparov and a leather jacketed Anand in Linares, where Kasparov had the upper hand but was unable to complete the job on his slippery opponent, thus provoking the ire of the champion. It appears that nothing ever changes. As time controls get ever faster the resourceful players are coming to the fore, and their poster boy is surely Hikaru Nakamura. Of late Naka has reinvented himself as a streamer and like Alexandra Botez, has "blown up" because of the pandemic and hype surrounding the TV series "Queens Gambit". I doubt it's an exaggeration to say that Naka makes at least several hundred thousand dollars a year from Twitch and other Internet income, and

probably gets more from these sources than he does from being a player. Fair play, and you wonder if this trend will continue in the future with more elite players going down the Naka path, tempted by the riches of Twitch and Youtube. If it does then the danger is that it creates a comfort zone for the player where he or she makes so much more from external sources than they do from their original income, and because of that the playing side is neglected. Naka's internet and blitz game remain as strong as ever, but his classical results have suffered. It would be a pity if that side of his career dwindled away to nothing. What makes Naka such a lethal exponent of blitz is highly-attuned intuition combined with unerring calculation.

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Bb3 0-0 6.Nbd2

[6.0-0 - 60/292]

6...d6 7.Nf1?! -0.18/23 Perhaps trying to be too inventive from a suspect lie. Perhaps trying to be too inventive from a suspect lie.

[7.0-0]

[7.c3]

[7.c3 0.21/24 is more appropriate.]

7...Nbd7 8.a3N -0.51/21

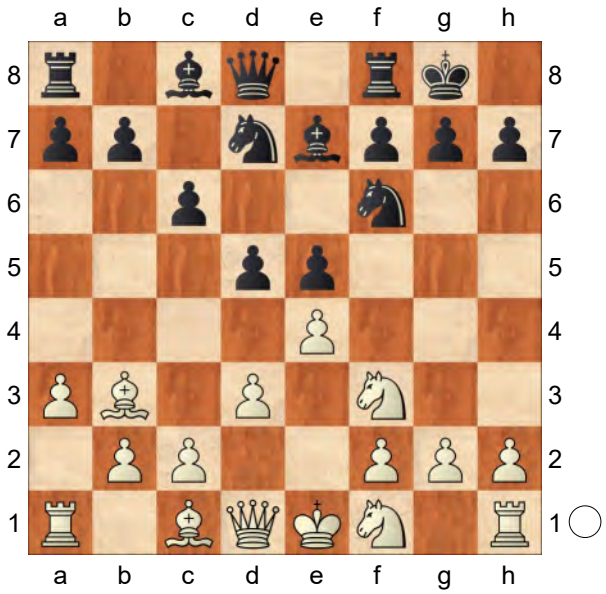
[8.Ng3= -0.14/23]

[8.c3 d5 9.Bc2 dxe4 10.dxe4 Nc5 11.Qxd8 Rxd8 12.Ng3 Re8 13.0-0 Bf8 14.b4 Ncd7 Nakamura,H (2736)-So,W (2770) chess.com (Int.-m/11-blitz) 147/(91) 2020]

8...d5∓ Diagram

(Diagram)

9.N1d2N A chip out sideways. This looks



ugly and needs explaining. A chip out sideways. This looks ugly and needs explaining.

[Nakamura would have understood that 9.Ng3?! was more natural but ran into a concrete problem Nc5! 10.0-0 Nxb3 11.cxb3 and now Black has the option of going into a comfortable ending with and now Black has the option of going into a comfortable ending with dxe4 -0.20/18 *(11...Bd6!* is even stronger and gives Black a clear edge. *12.Re1 Re8 13.Bg5 h6∓; 11...Bd6∓* -0.73/19 *)* 12.dxe4= Qxd1 13.Rxd1 Be6↑ - doubtless this is what Naka was trying to avoid; an ending where his opponent has easy play. So instead he plays an ugly move that fulfills a concrete task - it keeps the queens on the board. Naka's style has been somewhat influenced by computers and we all know that they are happy to make ugly moves that accomplish a specific task. - doubtless this is what Naka was trying to avoid; an ending where his opponent has easy play. So instead he plays an ugly move that fulfills a

concrete task - it keeps the queens on the board. Naka's style has been somewhat influenced by computers and we all know that they are happy to make ugly moves that accomplish a specific task.]

[9.exd5! cxd5 10.Ng3 gave up the centre somewhat, but at least was consistent with the original plan- putting the knight on g3. gave up the centre somewhat, but at least was consistent with the original plan- putting the knight on g3.]

9...Nc5! Anyway! **10.Qe2** -1.03/21

[10.Nxe5 Nxb3 11.cxb3 dxe4 12.dxe4 Nxe4!]

[10.Nxe5∓ -0.62/21 was preferrable. Nxb3 *(10...dxe4 11.dxe4 Nxb3 12.cxb3∓)* 11.cxb3]

10...Nxb3 11.Nxb3 dxe4 -0.64/19

[11...Re8∓ -1.08/21 12.Bd2 a5]

12.dxe4∓ Qc7 13.0-0 h6 14.h3 Be6 Black definitely has the edge. Hikaru is stuck in the rough whereas the smooth-striking Martinez has his ball flush in the middle of the fairway. Black definitely has the edge. Hikaru is stuck in the rough whereas the smooth-striking Martinez has his ball flush in the middle of the fairway. **15.Bd2 a5 16.Bc3 Nd7 17.Nc1 b5 18.Nd3 Bd6 19.Nh4** -1.14/21 White is struggling and after pulling his drive, has 220 to the front edge on a long par four, back into the breeze. So Nakamura lays up, eyeing up the f5 square and a potential f4 lever as a source of counterplay. Pretty much any counterplay is good at blitz - it doesn't matter if your position is lost, as long as you have play. White is struggling and after pulling his drive, has 220 to the front edge on a long par four, back into the breeze. So Nakamura lays up, eyeing up the f5 square and a potential f4 lever as a source of counterplay. Pretty much any counterplay is good at blitz - it doesn't matter if your position is lost, as long as you have play.

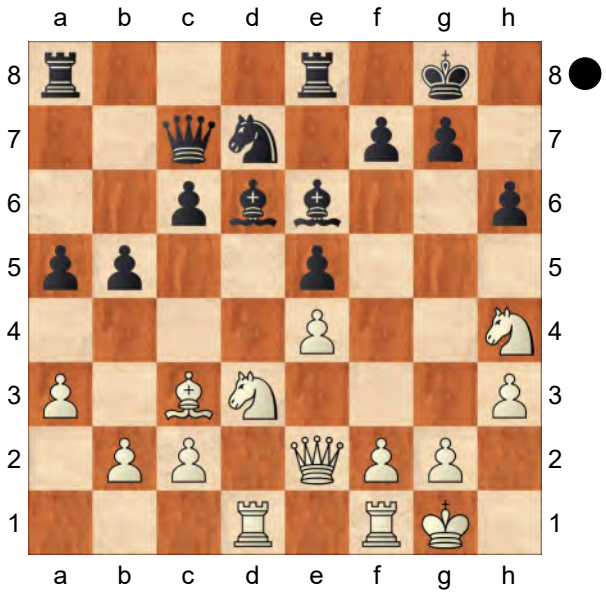
[19.b4!∓ -0.58/20]

19...Rfe8 -0.61/21

[19...c5!∓ -1.14/21 20.Rfd1 b4 21.axb4 cxb4]

20.Rad1 -1.43/19

[20.b4∓ -0.61/21]



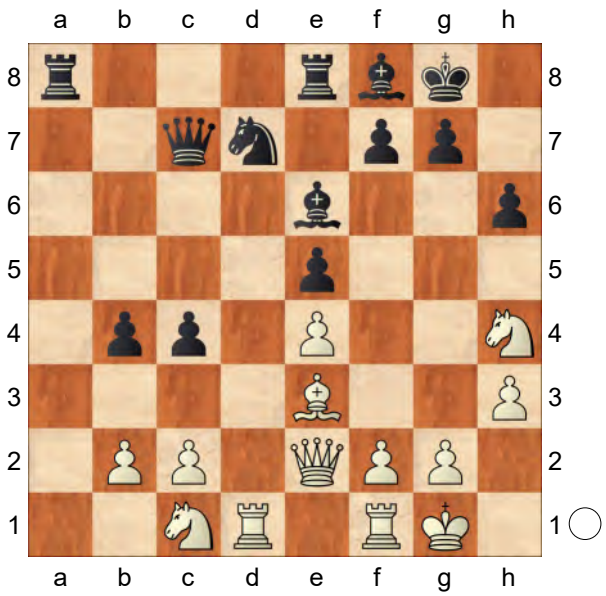
20...c5!∓ 21.Bd2 c4↑ Keeping White busy. **22.Nc1 b4 23.axb4 axb4 24.Be3** -1.63/22

[24.Nf5∓ -1.16/21]

24...Bf8 Diagram

(Diagram)

25.Qf3 I have no idea if Nakamura streamed this game or not (I guess he probably did) and I imagine if so, then he was making his thoughts clear on the webcam. Quite possibly some extreme head-shaking and muttering was taking place. That is part of what makes



Nakamura's channel so attractive, the showmanship of it all. I'm fairly confident that Naka doesn't just stream to make money out of it, even if that is an important side. There's a large part of him that wants to impress the crowd, and I think most great players have that to a certain extent. I have no idea if Nakamura streamed this game or not (I guess he probably did) and I imagine if so, then he was making his thoughts clear on the webcam. Quite possibly some extreme head-shaking and muttering was taking place. That is part of what makes Nakamura's channel so attractive, the showmanship of it all. I'm fairly confident that Naka doesn't just stream to make money out of it, even if that is an important side. There's a large part of him that wants to impress the crowd, and I think most great players have that to a certain extent. **25...Qc6 26.Rfe1 g6 27.Ne2** -2.16/21

[27.Qg3∓ -1.34/18 is a better defense.]

27...Be7 28.g3 Nf6

[28...Bxh3 29.g4 Bxh4 30.Qxh3∓]

29.Bxh6 -2.75/20

[29.g4 -1.81/18 was called for.]

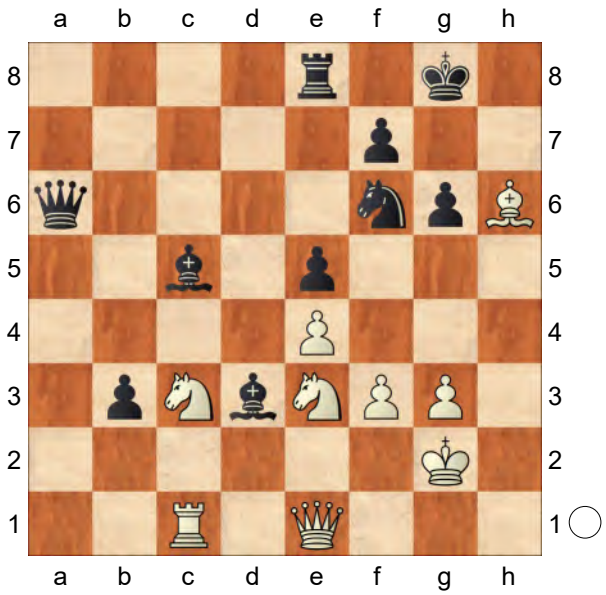
29...Bxh3-+ Black has completely outplayed his esteemed opponent and now begins to cash in. Black has completely outplayed his esteemed opponent and now begins to cash in.

[29...Nxe4 30.Nc1 Bxh4 *(30...Bd5 31.Rxd5 Qxd5 32.Qxe4±)* 31.gxh4=]

[29...Qxe4 30.Nd4 Qxf3 31.Ndxf3=]

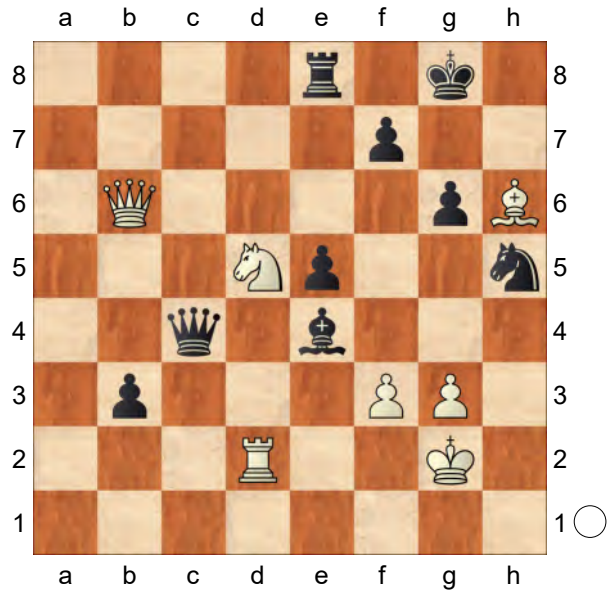
30.Qh1 White is weak on the light squares **30...Bg4 31.f3 Be6** White's position is quite desperate, but Naka now does what all good resourceful players do; he refuses to panic and forces the opponent to win the game. Something that is easy to forget is how quick Naka is. I've played him at 1 minute online and you get your moves out as quickly as you can, you look at your clock and you have five seconds left and he's still sitting there with 40 seconds. It's quite unnerving. No doubt Black was faced with the same problem here - he was getting short of time, and in such a situation then it stops being about who is better or worse. It's who can get the moves out quickly enough. White's position is quite desperate, but Naka now does what all good resourceful players do; he refuses to panic and forces the opponent to win the game. Something that is easy to forget is how quick Naka is. I've played him at 1 minute online and you get your moves out as quickly as you can, you look at your clock and you have five seconds left and he's still sitting there with 40 seconds. It's quite unnerving. No doubt Black was faced with the same problem here - he was getting short of time, and in such a situation then it stops being about who is better or worse. It's who can get the moves out quickly

enough.
[31...Bc5+ 32.Kh2 *(32.Kg2* -3.41/19 32.Kg1-h2 -2.18 *Nxe4 33.fxe4 Qxe4+ 34.Kh2 Qxh1+ 35.Kxh1 Bf2-+)* 32...Ra2 33.Rb1 Bc8-+]
32.Nc1 Ra1 33.Ng2 Rb1 34.b3 -3.09/21
[34.Ne3 -1.78/16 was necessary.]
34...Rb2 35.Re2? -4.18/18
[35.Rd2 -2.58/17]
35...cxb3 36.cxb3 Rxe2
[36...Bxb3 37.Rxb2 Bxd1 38.Ne1]
37.Nxe2 Bxb3 38.Rc1 Qb5 39.Kf2 Bc4 40.Qe1 b3
[If Black wanted to play for a win with little risk, then If Black wanted to play for a win with little risk, then 40...Bxe2 -2.14/17 40...Re8-a8 -4.49 41.Qxe2 Qxe2+ -0.89/18 *(41...Qd7-+* -2.00/19 and Black stays clearly on top. aiming for ...Qd7-h3. *42.Be3 Ra8)* 42.Kxe2∓ Rb8∓ wouldn't have been a bad practical choice, although according to the engine this gives away a large amount of the advantage. The trouble is when we are short of time, we can't always afford to be picky. wouldn't have been a bad practical choice, although according to the engine this gives away a large amount of the advantage. The trouble is when we are short of time, we can't always afford to be picky.]
[40...Ra8! - lining up ...Ra2 was terribly strong. Black might just regret missing this six-footer. - lining up ... Ra2 was terribly strong. Black might just regret missing this six-footer. 41.Rc2 -7.19/17 *(⌓41.Rd1* -4.78/21 *)* 41...b3-+ 42.Rb2 Ra2-+ I think even I'd win this.]
41.Nc3! Just a glimmer of counterplay. There's a opening through the trees, right? Just a glimmer of counterplay. There's a opening through the trees, right? **41...Qa6** ...Be7-b4 is the strong threat. **42.Ne3 Bc5 43.Kg2 Bd3** Diagram



. A strong pair of Bishops. **44.Rd1!** -4.21/21 In this terrible position, Naka continues to make moves that test the opponent. That's an impressive quality and one that is easy to overlook. It would be easy to buckle here and just give up altogether. In this terrible position, Naka continues to make moves that test the opponent. That's an impressive quality and one that is easy to overlook. It would be easy to buckle here and just give up altogether.
[⌓44.Qd2 -2.50/20]
44...Bxe3? -0.75/19 Black wanted to prevent Nd5, but it wasn't wise to give away the dark squares like this. Black wanted to prevent Nd5, but it wasn't wise to give away the dark squares like this.
[44...Bb4-+]
[44...Bb4-+ -4.21/21 is more deadly. 45.Qd2 Nxe4 46.Qxd3 Qxd3 Remove Defender 47.Rxd3 Nxc3 *(47...Bxc3 48.fxe4 b2 49.Rd1∓)*]

45.Qxe3∓ Bc2 46.Rd2 -3.05/19
[46.Rh1∓ -0.74/20 Qc6 47.Bg5]
46...Qc4? 0.36/18 As so often in blitz the mistakes come thick and fast. As so often in blitz the mistakes come thick and fast.
[46...Rc8 47.Bg5 b2 was the way to go. was the way to go. 48.Rxc2? -5.54/20 *(48.Nb1* -2.78/19 was the only chance.*)* 48...Rxc3! *(48...b1Q 49.Nxb1 Rxc2+-+* is also good enough.*)* 49.Qxc3 b1Q-+]
[Black should try 46...Rc8-+ -3.05/19 47.Nb1 b2 *(47...Bxb1? 48.Qxb3 Nxe4 49.fxe4-+)*]
47.Qb6!± A beautiful chip to set-up the birdie, Nakamura cashes in on the stubborness of his previous play. A beautiful chip to set-up the birdie, Nakamura cashes in on the stubborness of his previous play. **47...Nh5**
[47...Qxc3?? 5.65/25 47...Nf6-h5 0.88 48.Qxf6+-]
48.Nd5 Chess con chili. **48...Bxe4?** 5.49/24



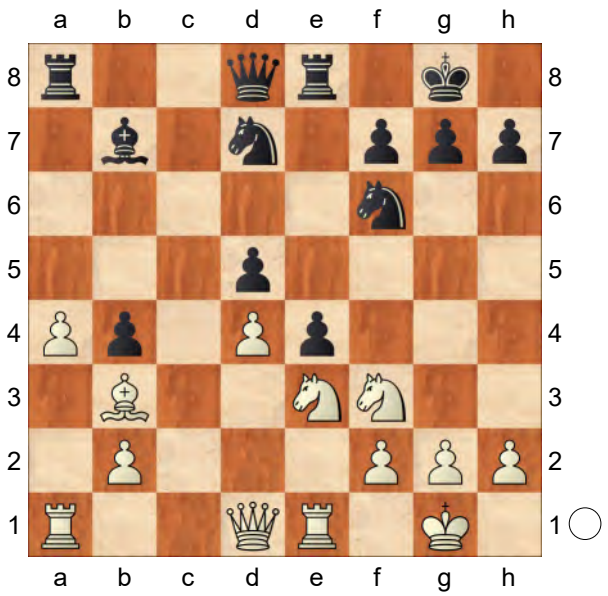
49.Nf6+!+- White is clearly winning.
[49.fxe4 Qxe4+ 50.Kh2 Kh7±]
49...Kh8 50.Nxe4 Kh7 51.Be3 Re6 9.47/22
[⌓51...Ra8 5.10/18 52.Nd6 Qe6]
52.Ng5+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.42/ Black=0.47
1-0

C24
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2843**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2822**
Norway Chess 6th (1) 28.05.2018
[Kitty Kat]

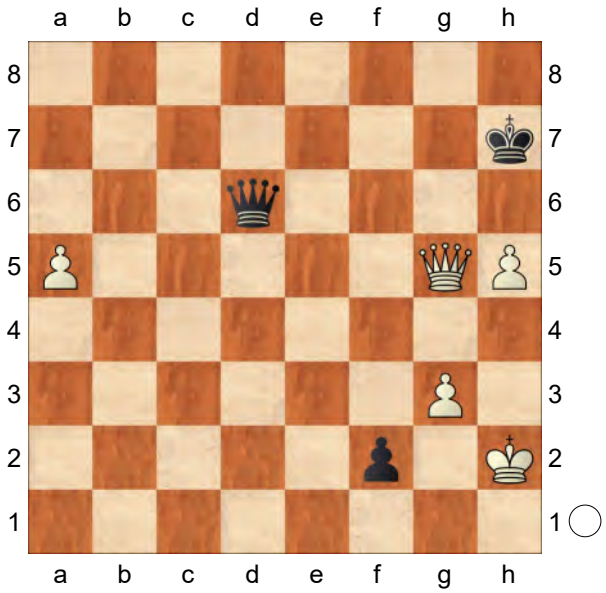
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Nbxd2 a5 8.c3
[8.Nxe5? a4 9.Bxa4 Rxa4-+]
8...Nbd7 9.exd5 cxd5 The position is equal. **10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 Re8 12.Nf1 b5N**
[12...Qc7 13.Ne3 Nb6 14.a4 Bg4 15.Nxg4 Nxg4 16.h3 Nf6 17.Rc1 Rad8 18.Rc2 Nbd7 19.Rce2 e4 20.Nd4 Nc5 21.Bc2 Qb6 22.Nb5 g6 23.Re3 Qc6 24.d4 Ne6 25.f3 exf3 26.Qxf3 Ne4 27.Qe2 Nc3,A (2460)-Haemmerle,A (2454) World Team-ch01 1985 ½-½]
13.a4 b4 14.cxb4 axb4 15.Ne3 Bb7 16.d4 e4

(Diagram)

17.Ne5 Nxe5 18.dxe5 Rxe5 ...d5-d4 would now be deadly. **19.Qd4 Re7 20.Rac1 Rd7 21.Red1 h6 22.Rc5 Ra5 23.Rxa5 Qxa5 24.h3 Kh7 25.Rc1 Rc7** 1.03/23 Prevents Rc1-c5.
[25...Ba8= 0.09/21]
26.Rxc7± Overworked Piece **26...Qxc7**



27.Qxb4 White is more active. **27...Qc1+ 28.Bd1 Ba6 29.Qd4** 0.89/22
[White should play 29.Qc3 1.28/23 Qxc3 30.bxc3]
29...Be2 30.Kh2 Bxd1 1.09/21 Black is now going downhill.
[30...Qc7+± 0.51/23 31.g3 Bxd1 32.Nxd1 *(32.Qxd1 Qa7=)* 32...h5]
31.Nxd1± Endgame. KQN-KQN **31...Qc7+ 32.Kg1** And now b2-b4 would win. **32...Qc1 33.b4 e3 34.fxe3 Ne4 35.Qxd5 Nd2** 1.70/26
[35...Qb1± 1.21/25 was necessary.]
36.Qf5++- Kh8 2.17/26
[36...Kg8± 1.39/24 37.Qg4 h5]
37.Qg4! f5 38.Qe2
[38.Qxf5? is the wrong capture. Qxd1+ 39.Kh2 Nf1+-+ *(39...Qxa4 40.Qf8+ Kh7 41.Qf5+ Kh8 42.Qc8+ Kh7 43.Qf5+ Kh8=; 39...Qxa4 40.Qc8+ Kh7 41.Qf5+ Kh8 42.Qf8+ Kh7 43.Qf5+ Kh8=)*]
38...Ne4 39.Qe1 2.04/25 Repels Ne4-c3
[39.a5± 1.18/23]
39...Qa1 3.13/24
[⌓39...Qc4 2.04/25 40.a5 Nf6]
40.a5 Nd6 41.Qd2 Nc4 42.Qd4 Qc1 43.Kf1 Nxe3+ 44.Qxe3 Qxd1+ KQ-KQ
45.Kf2 Strongly threatening a5-a6.
45...Qc2+ 46.Kg3 g5? 5.35/22
[46...Qc4 2.45/24 47.Qf4 Qb5]
47.Qe5+ Kh7 48.Kh2 f4 49.Qd5 Qa4? 5.95/23
[49...Qe2 3.11/22 50.Qd8 Kg7]
50.Qf7+ Kh8 51.Qg6 Qxb4 52.Qxh6+ Kg8 53.Qxg5+ Kh7 54.Qh5+ Kg7 55.Qg5+? -0.01/22
[White should try 55.Qe5++- 5.01/23 Kh7 56.Qc7+ Kh8 57.a6]
55...Kh7!= 56.h4 h4-h5 is the strong threat. **56...Qd6** 10.50/23
[⌓56...f3 4.75/22 57.gxf3 Qb2+ 58.Kg3 Qa1 59.Qe7+ Kh6]
57.Qh5+ 4.60/24
[⌓57.h5 10.50/23 Intending Qg5-g6+! and mate. f3+ 58.Qg3]
57...Kg7+- 58.Qg5+? 0.01/18
[58.Qg4++- 4.80/25 Kf7 59.Qg5]
58...Kh7= 59.h5 Threatening mate with Qg5-g6+! **59...f3+ 60.g3 f2**



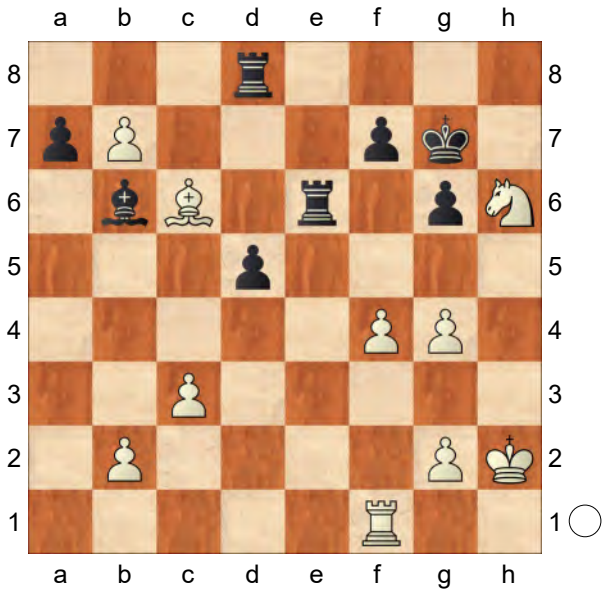
61.Qg6+! Kh8 62.Qxd6 f1Q+- Against Qd6-f6+. KQ-KQ **63.Qh6+ Kg8 64.Qe6+ Kh8 65.Qe3** White threatens h5-h6 and mate. **65...Qb5 66.Qc3+ Kh7 67.g4 Qd5 68.Qc7+ Kg8 69.Kg3** 8.59/27

[⌓69.Qc8+ #16/23 Kg7 70.h6+ Decoy Kxh6 71.Qh8+ Kg6 72.Qh5+ Qxh5+ 73.gxh5+ Kxh5 74.a6]
69...Qe6 70.Qd8+ Kh7 71.Qd3+ Kh8 72.a6 a6-a7 would kill now. **72...Qe5+ 73.Kh3** White wants to mate with a6-a7. **73...Qa1 74.Qd8+ Kh7 75.Qe7+ Kh6 76.Qe3+ Kh7 77.a7**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.56/ Black=0.28 (precise)
1-0

C27

□ **Giri,Anish** **2783**
■ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2612**
Tata Steel-A 81st (9) 22.01.2019
[Kitty Kat]

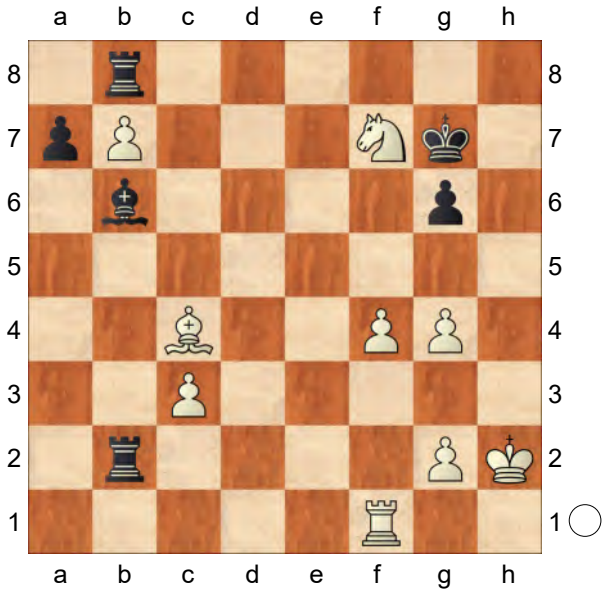
C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 c6 5.Nf3 d6 6.h3 0-0 7.0-0 Re8N
[7...Nbd7 8.a3 Bb6 9.Ba2 Re8 10.Re1 Nf8 11.Be3 Be6 12.d4 Bxa2 13.Rxa2 exd4 14.Bxd4 Ba5 15.b4 Bb6 16.Ra1 Ne6 17.Bxb6 axb6 18.a4 Qc7 19.Qd3 Rad8 20.Rad1 Nf4 21.Qd2 Ne6 22.Qd3 Amin,B (2694)-Yu,Y (2735) Biel 56th 2023 (7) ½-½]
8.Ne2 Nbd7 9.Ng3 Nf8 10.c3 Bb6 11.Bb3 Be6 12.a4 d5 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.d4 Ng6 16.a5 Bc7 17.dxe5 Nxe5 18.Nd4 Rad8 0.29/20
[⌓18...Nc4 -0.20/19]
19.f4= Qg6 20.Ngf5 -0.52/21
[20.Kh2= 0.19/20 dxe4 21.Bxe6 *(21.fxe5? Bxe5 22.Qe1 Bxb3-+)* 21...fxe6 22.fxe5]
20...Nd7 21.a6 -0.96/20
[White should try 21.Nxe6∓ -0.43/21 fxe6 22.Nd4 Qxe4 *(22...dxe4 23.Nxe6* Decoy *Rxe6 24.f5=* Pin, Double Attack *)* 23.Qd2]
21...Nc5∓ 22.axb7 Nxe4 23.Qg4 aiming for Qg4xg6. **23...Bxf5** -0.20/21
[23...Nd2∓ -0.84/20 24.Ba4 Nxf1 25.Kxf1 Bxf5 26.Nxf5 Qf6]
24.Nxf5 -1.70/21
[24.Qxf5= -0.20/21 Qxf5 25.Nxf5]
24...Qxg4? -0.06/22
[24...Qf6!-+ -1.70/21 ...h6-h5! would now be deadly. 25.Ng3 Nxg3 *(25...Nd2 26.Bc2∓)* 26.Qxg3 Rb8]
25.hxg4= Nd2 -0.42/22
[25...Nc5± 0.31/22 26.Bc2 Nxb7]
26.Ba4∓ Bb6+ 0.41/23
[26...Nxf1= -0.09/22 27.Rxf1 Re2]
27.Kh2 -0.03/21
[27.Nd4!± 0.41/23 feels stronger. Nxf1 28.Kxf1 Bxd4 29.cxd4]
27...Nxf1+= 28.Rxf1 Re6 White must now prevent ...Rd8-b8. **29.Bxc6** Decoy, Promotion **29...g6 30.Nxh6+ Kg7**



31.Bxd5 Deflection, Promotion
31...Ree8
[31...Kxh6 32.Bxe6]
32.Bxf7 Re2 1.74/22
[32...Re7± 0.52/23]
33.Bc4 0.88/22

[33.g5+- 1.74/22]

33...Rxb2± 34.Nf7 Rb8



35.Ng5! Bf2 2.50/22

[35...Rxb7± 1.41/21 36.Re1 Ba5]

36.Bd5+- a5 37.Ra1 Rh8+ 38.Nh3 g5 39.fxg5 1.60/22

[39.f5+- 2.81/23]

39...Bb6± 40.Re1 0.44/23

[40.Kg3± 1.17/21 Strongly threatening Nh3-f4. Bc7+ 41.Kf3 *(41.Nf4 Rf8=)*]

40...Bc7+± 41.Kg1 0.01/20

[41.Kh1± 0.62/22 Bb8 42.Re7+ Kf8 43.Rf7+ Ke8 44.Kg1]

41...Bd6!= 42.Ra1 Bg3 Hoping for ...a5-a4! **43.g6** -0.66/21

[43.Rxa5? Rb1#]

[43.Bc6= 0.01/22]

43...a4!∓ Threatens to win with ...a4-a3.

44.Kf1? -2.39/22

[44.Rxa4? Rb1#]

[44.Be4 Re8 45.Ng5 *(45.Rxa4? Rb1+* Back Rank *46.Bxb1 Re1#)* 45...a3∓]

[44.Bf7!= -0.01/20 and White is okay.]

44...Re8 45.Ng5

[45.Rxa4? Re1#]

45...Re5

[45...a3!? 46.Bf7□ *(46.Rxa3? Re1#; 46.Ne6+? Kxg6 47.Ra2 Rxa2-+)* 46...Ree2 47.Ne6+ *(47.Rxa3? Re1#)* 47...Kf6 48.g5+ Ke7=]

46.Ne4

[46.Rxa4? Re1#]

[Don't play 46.Ne6+ Kxg6 47.Bc4 *(47.Rxa4? Re1#; 47.c4? a3-+)* 47...Rxb7∓]

46...Rxd5 47.Nxg3= Endgame. KRR-KRN **47...Rdd2 48.Nf5+**

[48.Rxa4? Rd1#]

48...Kf6 49.g7 Nf5-e3 is the strong threat.

[49.Rxa4? Rd1#]

49...Kf7 50.Re1

[50.Rxa4? Rd1#]

50...Rxb7 And now ...a4-a3 would win.

[50...Rf2+ with more complications. 51.Kg1 Rxg2+ 52.Kh1 Rh2+]

51.g5 -0.65/25

[51.Kg1= -0.01/22 Rd8 52.Ra1]

51...Rd8 0.01/20

[Better is 51...Rb8∓ -0.65/25 52.Kg1 a3 53.Re7+ Kg6]

52.Ra1 Ra7 53.Ra3 Kg6 54.g4 Kxg5 55.c4 Rb8 56.Ke2 Ra6 57.Kd2 0.00/22

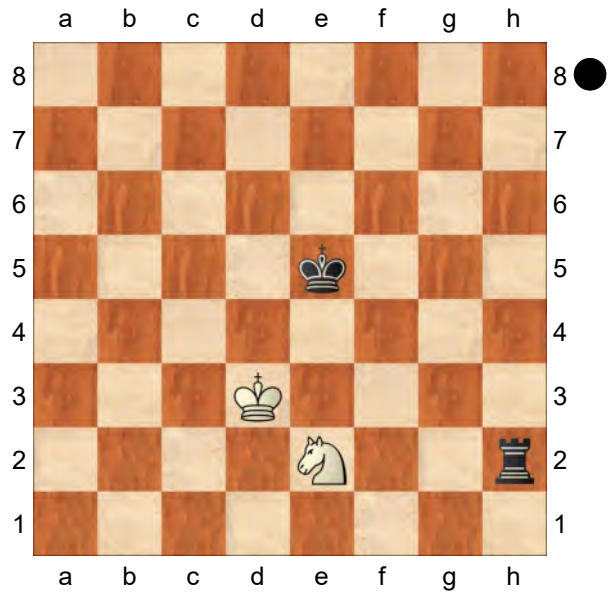
[White should play 57.Kf3± 0.52/20]

57...Rg8 58.Kc3 Kxg4 59.Nd4

[59.Rxa4!? Rxa4 60.Nh6+ Kh5 61.Nxg8=]

59...Rxg7 60.Kb4 Rga7 61.Nb5 Ra8 62.Nc3 Rb8+ 63.Nb5 Rc8 64.Rxa4 Rxa4+ 65.Kxa4 Rxc4+∓ KR-KN **66.Kb3 Rc8 67.Kb4 Kf4 68.Nd6 Rc6 69.Nb5 Ke4 70.Nc3+ Kd4 71.Nb5+ Kd3 72.Kb3 Rc4 73.Na3 Rc1 74.Kb4 Rh1 75.Nb5 Rh5 76.Nd6 Kd4 77.Nb5+ Kd5 78.Nc3+ Kc6 79.Kc4 Rh4+ 80.Kd3 Kc5 81.Ne4+ Kd5**

82.Nc3+ Ke5 83.Nb5 Rg4 84.Nc3 Rb4 85.Ne2 Kd6 86.Nc3 Rh4 87.Ne4+ Ke5 88.Nc3 Rd4+ 89.Ke3 Rd8 90.Ne2 Rh8 91.Kd3 Rh3+ 92.Kc4 Rh2 93.Kd3



Rxe2 0.00/94 **94.Kxe2** Black defended with fortune.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise)
½-½

C24

☐ **Molina,Roberto Junio Brito 2843**
■ **Sanjuan Garcia,M 2654**
Paracin Summer op-A 11th (2) 01.04.18
[Kitty Kat]

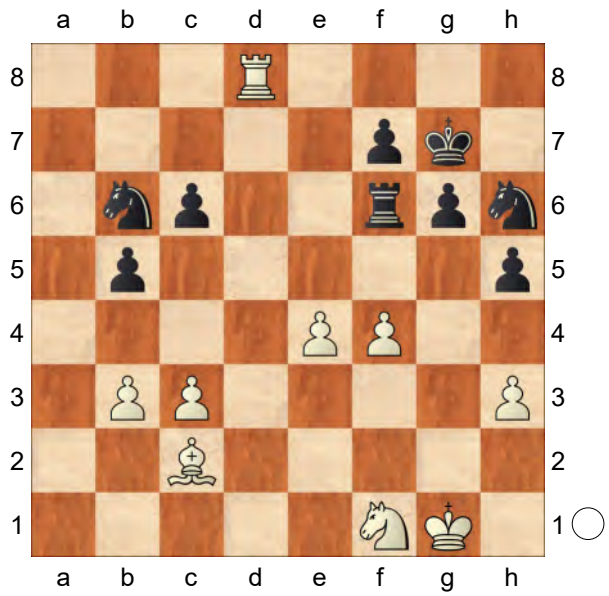
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Qe2 Be7 5.Nf3 d6 6.c3 Nbd7 7.Bb3 0-0 8.0-0 The position is equal. **8...a5 9.d4N**
[9.a4 b5 10.Bc2 Ba6 11.axb5 cxb5 12.Nbd2 Qc7 13.d4 a4 14.Bd3 Rfb8 15.Nh4 g6 16.f4 exf4 17.Ndf3 Nh5 18.Bd2 Nb6 19.g4 fxg3 20.Ng5 Nc4 21.Nf5 Bxg5 22.Bxg5 f6 23.Bh4 gxh2+ Chapter-Games Chapter 21 Game 8 24.Qxh2 Rf8 25.Be2 gxf5 26.Bxh5 fxe4 27.Qf4 f5 28.Kh1 Kh8 29.Rg1 Rf7 30.Bxf7 Qxf7 31.Qh6 Rf8 32.Rg6 Levano Loayza,A (2680)-Grankin,F (2758) Saint Petersbourg it 1895 (3.2) 1-0]
9...a4 10.Bc2 Re8 11.Re1 Bf8 12.Qd1 b5 13.Nbd2 Qc7 14.Nf1 g6 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bd2 Bg7 17.Ng3 Nb6 18.b3 axb3 19.axb3 Rxa1 20.Qxa1 Bg4 21.Qc1 Bxf3 22.gxf3 h5 23.Bh6 Qe7 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.Qg5 Ng3-f5+ would now be deadly. **25...Kh7** 0.39/19
[25...Kh8!= -0.01/18]
26.f4 0.01/20
[26.Ra1!± 0.39/19]
26...Nfd7 0.40/21
[26...exf4= 0.01/20 is more appropriate. 27.Qxf4 Nfd5]
27.Qxe7!± Rxe7 28.fxe5 dxe5 29.Rd1 -0.01/19
[29.Ne2± 0.40/20]
29...Re8 30.dxe5 Nxe5 31.f4 Ng4 32.Rd6 Re6 33.Rd8 Kg7 34.Nf1 0.00/22
[34.h3± 0.61/22 Nf6 35.e5]
34...Rf6? 1.54/23
[Better is 34...Nf6= 0.00/22 35.Nd2 h4]
35.h3± Nh6

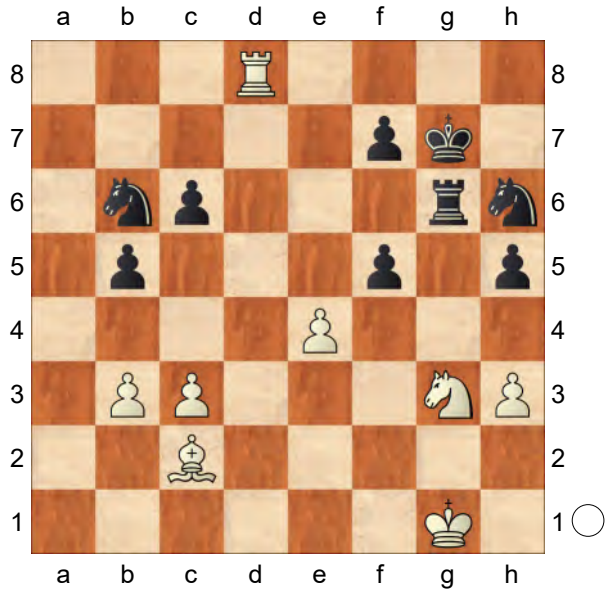
(Diagram)

36.f5 gxf5 37.Ng3 Rg6

(Diagram)

38.Kf2 0.15/24
[38.exf5? too greedy. Rxg3+ 39.Kf1 Rxc3-+ *(39...Rxh3? 40.f6+* Decoy *Kxf6 41.Rd6+ Kg7 42.Rxc6-+)*]
[38.Kh2!± 1.14/24 fxe4 39.Nxh5+





(39.Bxe4 f5=) 39...Kh7 40.Bxe4 Pin]

38...fxe4 1.65/23
[38...Rg5= 0.15/24]

39.Nxh5++- Kh7 40.Bxe4 Pin **40...f5 41.Bg2** White is more active. **41...Nf7** 1.63/23 Against Nh5-f4
[41...c5± 1.22/21 was necessary. 42.Nf4 Rf6]

42.Rf8 Ne5 43.Nf4 Prevents Ne5-d3+
[43.Rxf5 Nd3+ 44.Ke3 Rxg2±]

43...Rd6 44.Rxf5 Nbd7 45.Ke2 Kg7 46.h4 Nf7 47.Be4 Nde5 48.Nh5+ Kh6 2.22/24
[48...Kf8± 1.48/20 49.Nf4 Rh6]

49.Ng3 Re6 50.Ke3 Kg7 51.Rf1 Kf8 52.Nf5 Ng4+ 53.Kf4 And now Rf1-a1! would win. **53...Nf6 54.Bf3 Nd5+ 55.Bxd5 cxd5** Endgame. KRN-KRN **56.Ra1 Kg8 57.Ra8+ Kh7 58.Ra7 Rf6 59.h5** Hoping for b3-b4. **59...Kg8 60.Rd7 b4 61.cxb4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.24 (precise)
[And not 61.Rxd5 bxc3 62.Ke4 c2=]

1-0

C24

□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2843**
■ **Hou,Yifan** **2654**

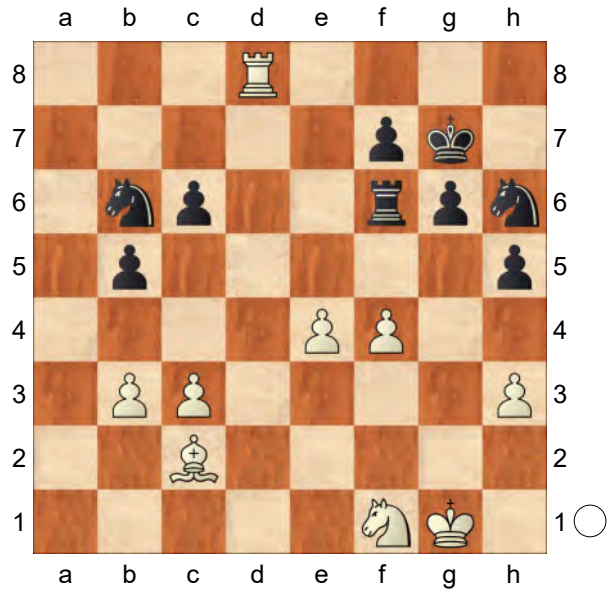
Grenke Chess Classic 5th (2) 01.04.2018
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Qe2 Be7 5.Nf3 d6 6.c3 Nbd7 7.Bb3 0-0 8.0-0 The position is equal. **8...a5 9.d4N**
[9.a4 b5 10.Bc2 Ba6 11.axb5 cxb5 12.Nbd2 Qc7 13.d4 a4 14.Bd3 Rfb8 15.Nh4 g6 16.f4 exf4 17.Ndf3 Nh5 18.Bd2 Nb6 19.g4 fxg3 20.Ng5 Nc4 21.Nf5 Bxg5 22.Bxg5 f6 23.Bh4 gxh2+ Chapter-Games Chapter 21 Game 8 24.Qxh2 Rf8 25.Be2 gxf5 26.Bxh5 fxe4 27.Qf4 f5 28.Kh1 Kh8 29.Rg1 Rf7 30.Bxf7 Qxf7 31.Qh6 Rf8 32.Rg6 Levano Loayza,A (2680)-Grankin,F (2758) Saint Petersbourg it 1895 (3.2) 1-0]

9...a4 10.Bc2 Re8 11.Re1 Bf8 12.Qd1 b5 13.Nbd2 Qc7 14.Nf1 g6 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bd2 Bg7 17.Ng3 Nb6 18.b3 axb3 19.axb3 Rxa1 20.Qxa1 Bg4 21.Qc1 Bxf3 22.gxf3 h5 23.Bh6 Qe7 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.Qg5 Kh7 26.f4

Nfd7 27.Qxe7 Rxe7 28.fxe5 dxe5 29.Rd1 Re8 30.dxe5 Nxe5 31.f4 Ng4 32.Rd6 Re6 33.Rd8 Kg7 34.Nf1 0.01/22
[34.Ne2± 0.41/20]
34...Rf6? 1.68/22
[34...Nf6= 0.01/22 and Black is okay. 35.Nd2 h4]
35.h3+- Nh6



36.f5 gxf5 37.Ng3 Rg6 38.Kf2 0.01/24
[38.exf5? too greedy. Rxg3+ 39.Kf2 Rxh3-+ *(39...Rxc3? 40.Be4-+)*]
[38.Kh2± 1.24/25 fxe4 39.Nxh5+ *(39.Bxe4 f5±)* 39...Kh7 40.Nf4 *(40.Bxe4 f5±)*]
38...fxe4? 1.59/22
[38...Rg5= 0.01/24]
39.Nxh5+± Kh7 40.Bxe4 Pin **40...f5 41.Bg2** White is more active. **41...Nf7** 1.84/24
[41...Ng8± 1.36/22 42.Nf4 Rh6]
42.Rf8+- Ne5 43.Nf4 Prevents Ne5-d3+. **43...Rd6 44.Rxf5 Nbd7 45.Ke2 Kg7 46.h4 Nf7 47.Be4 Nde5 48.Nh5+** 1.33/21
[White should play 48.Kf2+- 1.73/20]
48...Kh6 2.16/23
[48...Kf8± 1.33/21 49.Ng3 Ke8]
49.Ng3 Re6 50.Ke3 Kg7 51.Rf1 Kf8 52.Nf5 Ng4+ 53.Kf4 Rf1-a1! is the strong threat. **53...Nf6** 2.48/21
[⌓53...Ngh6 1.85/22 54.Ne3 Rf6+ 55.Kg3 Re6]
54.Bf3 Nd5+ 55.Bxd5 cxd5 Endgame. K R N - K R N **56.Ra1** Ra1-a8+ would now be deadly. **56...Kg8?** 3.27/21
[56...Nh6± 1.56/21 keeps fighting. 57.Nd4 Re4+ 58.Kg5 Kg7]
57.Ra8+ Kh7 58.Ra7 Rf6 59.h5 And now b3-b4 would win. **59...Kg8 60.Rd7 b4** 5.30/22
[60...Nh6 3.77/23 might work better. 61.Rxd5 Nxf5 62.Rxf5 Rc6 63.Rxb5 Rxc3]
61.cxb4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.28 (precise)
[61.Rxd5 bxc3 62.Ke3 Rb6+-]
1-0

C50
□ **Fier,Alexandr** **2604**
■ **Dvirnyy,Danyyil** **2521**
POR-chT Sao Joao da Madeira (8.3)
[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 Nc6N
[4...0-0 5.Bg5 d6 6.Nbd2 Be6 7.c3 Nbd7 8.b4 Bb6 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.Nc4 h6 11.Bd2 d5 12.Nxb6 axb6 13.Qe2 c6 14.0-0 Qc7 15.Ne1 b5 16.Nc2 dxe4 17.dxe4 Nb6 18.Rfd1 Ra4 19.f3 Tiviakov,S (2617)-Ivanchuk,V (2705) Carlos Torre Wimbledon 17th 2004 (2.3) 0-1]
[4...d6 5.c3 Bb6 *(5...0-0 6.Bg5 h6*

7.Be3 Nc6 8.Nbd2 a6 9.b4 Bxe3 10.fxe3 b5 11.Bb3 Be6 12.Qe2 a5 13.bxa5 Nxa5 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.0-0 c5 16.Rfb1 Qd7 17.Rb2 Rfb8 18.Rab1 Nc6 19.h3 b4 20.cxb4 Dubreuil,J (2265)-Blondel,J (1898) EU-ch 12th Aix les Bains 2011 (4) 1-0) 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Bb3 Re8 9.Re1 Be6 10.Bc2 h6 11.h3 Nbd7 12.d4 Qc7 13.Nf1 Rad8 14.Ng3 Nf8 15.Be3 Ng6 16.Qc1 Bc8 17.a3 d5 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Ellithorpe,G (2716)-Hantel,T (2751) USSR 47/(465) 1989 (6) ½-½]

5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 Be7 7.Bg3 d6 8.c3 0-0 The position is equal. **9.Nbd2** -0.10/18

[⌓9.a4 0.28/17]

9...Re8 0.38/18

[9...Na5= -0.10/18]

10.0-0 Bf8 11.b4 Be6 12.Re1 Qc8 13.a4 Ne7 14.Bxe6 Qxe6 15.d4 Ng6 16.d5 Qd7 17.a5 -0.34/18

[17.Nh4= 0.15/18]

17...Nh7 0.42/17

[17...c6∓ -0.34/18]

18.c4± Nf4 1.59/20

[18...c6± 0.44/17]

19.Bxf4± exf4 20.Nd4 0.97/19

[20.a6+- 1.65/18 Rab8 21.axb7 Rxb7 22.b5]

20...g6 1.55/19

[⌓20...a6 0.97/19]

21.a6 b6 22.N2f3 1.27/19

[22.Nc6+- 1.74/17]

22...Bg7 23.Qc1 0.31/20

[Better is 23.Rc1± 1.25/19]

23...Ng5± 24.Ra3 Nxf3+! 25.Nxf3 g5 Black is weak on the light squares **26.h3 Re7 27.Ra2 Rae8 28.Rae2 Qc8 29.b5 Be5 30.Qc2 f6**

[30...g4?! 31.Nxe5 Rxe5 32.Qc1±]

31.Qd3 Rg7 32.Kf1 g4 33.hxg4 Qxg4 34.Rb1 -1.56/22

[34.Rd1= -0.24/21 keeps the balance.]

34...Qxg2+ 35.Ke1 Qg4 0.01/22

[35...f5!∓ -0.55/22 36.Kd1 *(36.Kd2? fxe4* Overworked Piece *37.Rxe4 Qxf2+ 38.Qe2 Bc3+ 39.Kd3 Qxe2+ 40.Rxe2 Rxe2-+)* 36...Bf6]

36.Kd2= Ree7 0.76/21

[36...Qh5= -0.01/21 remains equal.]

37.Rh1± Kf8 1.35/20

[37...Qd7± 0.65/19]

38.Nh4 0.45/21

[38.Rxh6 Rh7 39.Rh2 Reg7∓]

[38.Ree1!± 1.35/20]

38...f3 1.89/22 **39.Nxf3** 1.02/21

[39.Qxf3+- 1.89/22 Qxf3 40.Nxf3]

39...Qf4+ 1.57/21

[⌓39...f5 1.02/21]

40.Kc2 Rg2 1.75/21

[40...f5± 1.32/20 was necessary.]

41.Nh4 Rg4 42.Nf5 Rh7 43.f3 Dodges h6-h5 **43...Rg5 44.Rh4** Prevents h6-h5. Trapped Piece. Really sharp! White is more active.

[Inferior is 44.Rxh6 Rxh6 45.Nxh6 Rg1∓]

[44.Nxh6? Rg6 45.Qe3 Rgxh6-+ *(45...Rhxh6? 46.Qxf4 Bxf4 47.Rxh6-+)*]

44...Rxf5 45.Rxf4 Rxf4 46.Rg2 Rg7 47.Rxg7 Kxg7 Endgame. KQ-KRB **48.Qf1 Rh4** Wards off Qf1-h3 **49.Kd3 Bf4** 1.70/20

[49...Kf7± 1.18/19 50.Kd2 Kg7]

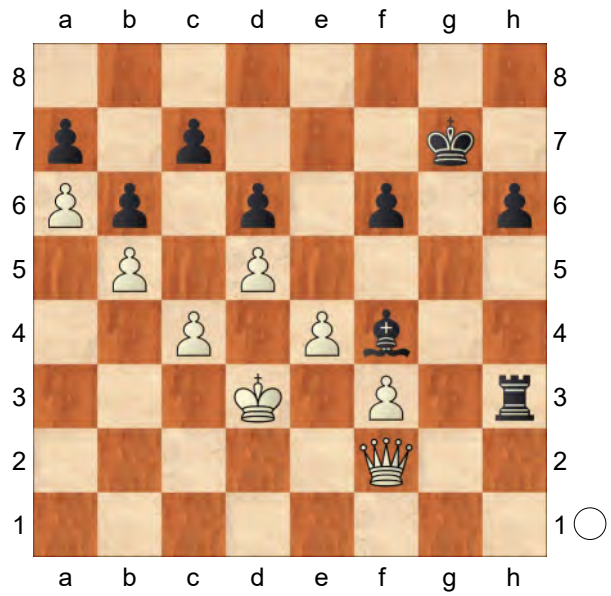
50.Qf2 1.01/20

[50.c5+- 1.70/20 dxc5 51.d6 Bxd6 52.Qg2+ Kh7 53.Qa2]

50...Rh3

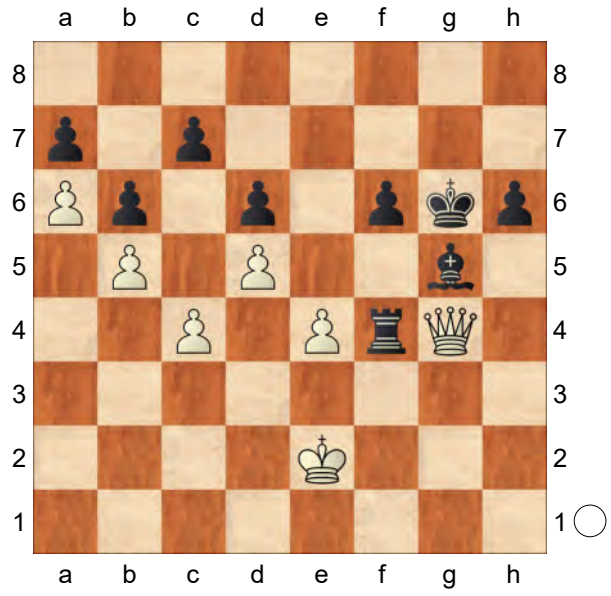
(Diagram)

51.Qg2+ 0.43/20



[51.c5!± 1.19/19 c5xb6 is the strong threat. dxc5 52.d6 cxd6 53.Qg1+ Rg3 54.Qh1]

51...Rg3± 52.Qh1 Black must now prevent Kd3-e2. **52...Kg6 53.Qh4 Rxf3+ 54.Ke2 Bg5 55.Qg4** White has strong compensation. **55...Rf4**



56.Qe6 1.00/18

[⌓56.Qc8! 1.51/20 Rxe4+ 57.Kd3 Re3+ 58.Kc2 Re2+ 59.Kb3]

56...h5± 57.Kd3 0.44/19

[White should try 57.c5± 1.01/18 aiming for Qe6-e8+. bxc5 58.Qe8+ Kh6 59.e5 Re4+ 60.Kd1 dxe5 61.Qa8]

57...h4 0.82/17

[57...Rf3+± 0.44/19 58.Ke2 Re3+ 59.Kf2 h4]

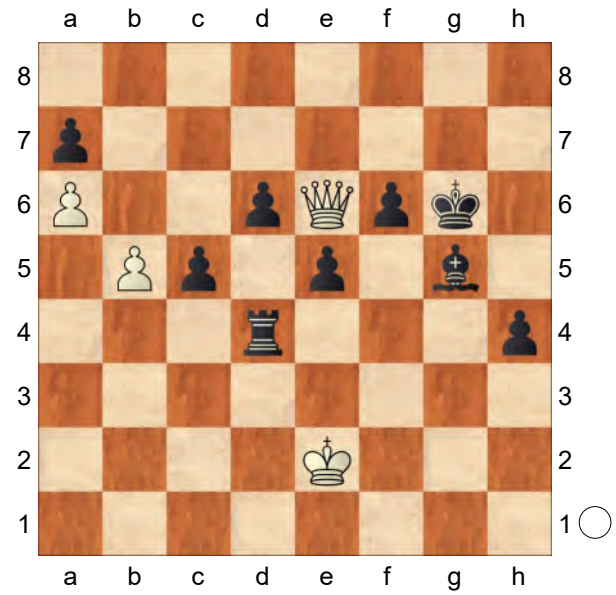
58.c5! bxc5 1.47/19

[58...dxc5± 0.56/19 59.Qd7 Rf3+ 60.Ke2 Ra3]

[58...Rf3+ 59.Ke2]

59.e5! dxe5 60.d6 Rd4+ 61.Ke2 cxd6? 7.14/21

[61...Rd2+ 1.79/21 62.Ke1 Rxd6 63.Qxd6 Remove Defender cxd6]



62.b6!+- Re4+ 63.Kf1 Rf4+ 64.Kg1 h3 65.bxa7 Rd4 66.Qxh3 Rd1+ 67.Kf2 e4 68.a8Q e3+ 69.Kf3 16.89/5 Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.25 (precise) . An unexpected result.

[⌓69.Kg3 #6/14 Bh4+ 70.Qxh4 *(70.Kxh4 Rd4+ 71.Kg3 Kg7 72.Qhh8+ Kg6 73.Qae8+ Kg5 74.Qhh5#; 70.Kf3 Rd4 71.Qg8+ Kh6 72.Qf5 Rf4+ 73.Qxf4+ Bg5 74.Qh2+ Bh4 75.Qxh4#)* 70...Rg1+ 71.Kh2 *(71.Kh3 Rh1+ 72.Qxh1 d5 73.Qxd5 Kg7 74.Qhh5 Kf8 75.Qhf7#)* 71...Rh1+ 72.Kxh1 Kf7 73.Qh7+ Ke6 74.Qae4#]

½-½

C28

□ **Aravindh,Chithambaram V R 2630**

■ **Banusz,Tamas 2620**

PRO League Stage rapid (3) 20.01.2020

[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Na5 5.Bb3 Bb4 6.Nf3 Nxb3 7.axb3 0-0 8.0-0 Re8N

[8...d5 9.Bg5 Bxc3 10.bxc3 dxe4 11.Nxe5 h6 12.Bh4 Bf5 13.Ra5 g5 14.Bg3 Bh7 15.f4 2) Sidelines in 2... Nc6: The-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3. N]

9.Bg5! Bxc3 10.bxc3 h6 11.Bh4 d6 12.h3 Qe7 13.d4 -0.01/17

[13.Nd2± 0.43/17]

13...Kh7 0.55/18

[13...exd4= -0.01/17 14.Nxd4 *(14.Qxd4 g5=)* 14...Qxe4 *(14...g5 15.Bg3=)* 15.Bxf6 gxf6]

14.Qd3 Rg8 0.81/17

[14...a5= 0.24/19]

15.dxe5 White is more active. **15...dxe5 16.Bg3 Nd7 17.Rfd1 f6 18.Nd2 Nc5 19.Qe2 Be6 20.f3 a6 21.Nf1 Rgd8 22.Bf2 Nd7 23.g4** -0.28/20

[⌓23.Ne3 0.26/18]

23...Nf8= 24.Ne3 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Rd8 26.Nd5 Qf7 27.c4 Ng6 28.Bg3 c6 29.Ne3 Rd7 30.Kf2

[30.h4!?]

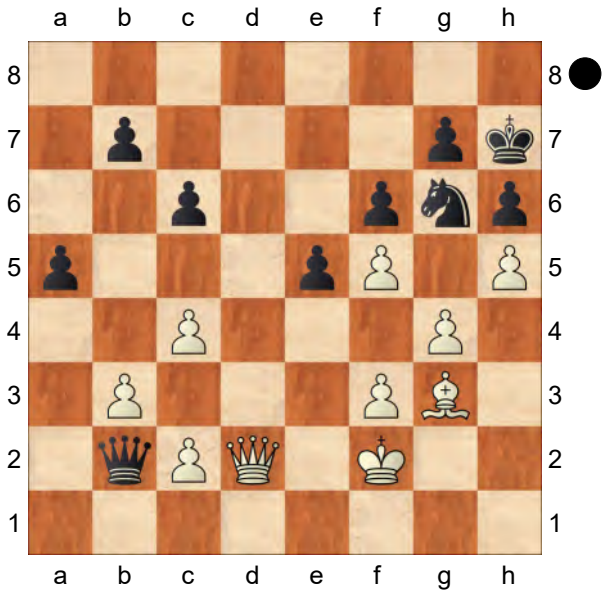
30...Qe7 31.Rxd7 Qxd7 32.Qd3 Qe7 33.Nf5 Qc5+ 34.Qe3 Qa3 35.h4 Qb2 36.Qd2 a5 37.h5 -0.46/22

[37.Ne3= 0.01/21]

37...Bxf5!∓ 38.exf5

(Diagram)

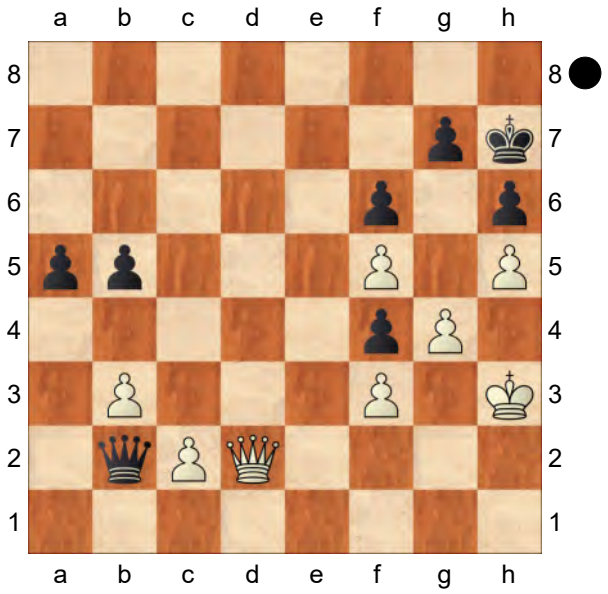
Nf4 39.Bxf4 exf4 Endgame. KQ-KQ **40.Kg2?** -3.85/21



[40.Ke2∓ -1.37/23]

40...b5-+ 41.cxb5 cxb5 Threatens to win with ...a5-a4. **42.Kh3?** -6.01/22

[42.Qe2 -3.53/20 a4 43.bxa4 bxa4 44.Qe8]



42...a4 43.bxa4 bxa4 44.Qd7 -13.69/28

[⌓44.Qxf4 -4.76/22 Qxc2 *(44...a3 45.Qc7∓)* 45.Qe3]

44...Qxc2? -0.01/24

[44...Qb1-+ -13.69/28 45.Kg2 Qxc2+ 46.Kg1 a3]

45.Qe8= The position is equal. **45...Qb3**

[45...Qc4!? 46.Qg6+□ Kg8 47.Qe8+ Kh7 48.Qg6+ Kg8 49.Qe8+ Kh7=]

46.Qg6+ Kh8

[46...Kg8!? 47.Qe8+□ Kh7 48.Qg6+ Kg8 49.Qe8+ Kh7=]

47.Qe8+ Kh7 48.Qg6+ Kh8

[48...Kg8!? 49.Qe8+□ Kh7=]

49.Qe8+ Kh7

Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/ Black=0.29 (precise)

½-½

C42

□ **Lodici,Lorenzo** **2524**

■ **Mastrovasilis,Dimitrios** **2603**

ITA-chT GpB 54th (1) 25.04.2023

[Kitty Kat]

C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Nf3 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Bxc3 8.bxc3 0-0

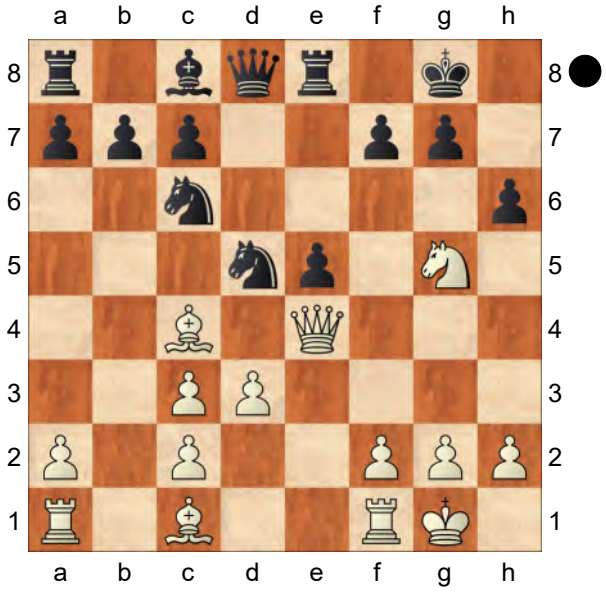
[8...Bg4 9.Qe1 Bxf3 10.gxf3 0-0 11.Kh1 Qd6 12.Rg1 Rad8 13.Rg3 Nce7 14.a4 Rfe8 15.a5 c6 16.Bd2 Nf5 17.Rg4 h6 18.Rb1 Qf6 19.Qe2 Re7 20.Rbg1 Kh8 21.Qd1 Rde8 22.Bb3 Nh4 23.R1g3 Li,E (2605)-Henzler,S (2655) 277 Linz 2012 (3) 0-1]

9.Qe1N

[9.Bd2 Bg4 10.Re1 Qd6 11.Rb1 Nb6 12.Bb5 Rae8 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.c4 Na4 15.Qe2 f5 16.Qe3 e4 17.dxe4 Rxe4 18.Qxa7 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Rxe1+ 20.Bxe1 Nb6 21.c5 Qg6+ 22.Kf1 Nd5 23.Rb8 Qh5 C1 Nd4-Brochet,P 56/329 Debrecen 1992 (3) 1-0 24.Rxf8+ Kxf8 25.Qb8+ Ke7 26.Qb3 Qxh2 27.Bd2 Qh1+

28.Ke2 Qa1 29.c4 Qe5+ 30.Kf1 Nf6 31.Bc3 Qe6 32.a4 g5 33.a5 g4 34.a6 gxf3 35.Bxf6+ Qxf6 36.Qe3+ Kf7 37.Qxf3 Qa1+ 38.Kg2 Qxa6 Bernstein,O-Alekhine,A Match Paris (France) 1933 (3) 1-0]

9...Re8 10.Ng5 h6 11.Qe4!



And now Qe4-h7+ would win. White is slightly better. **11...hxg5** White is better.

12.Bxd5 Be6 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.Qxe5

[14.Qxc6 Rb8=]

14...f6 15.Qa5 Bd5 16.Be3 Qd7 17.Qa4

[17.Bxa7?! Reb8 18.c4 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Qg4+ 20.Kh1 Rxa7 21.Qxa7 Qf3+ 22.Kg1 Qg4+ 23.Kh1 Qf3+ 24.Kg1 Qg4+ 25.Kh1=]

17...Kf7 18.h3

[18.Bxa7 Rh8 19.f4 Bxg2-+]

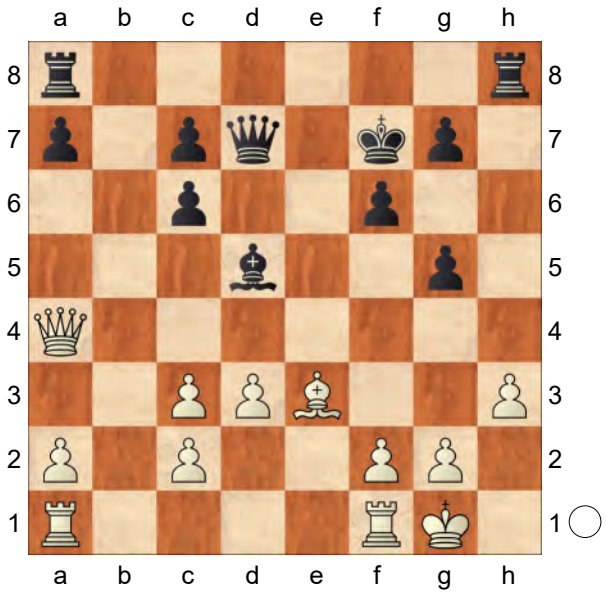
18...Rh8

(Diagram)

White must now prevent ...Bd5xg2!

19.Qg4

[19.Bxa7? loses. Bxg2 20.f3 Qxh3 *(20...Bxf1? 21.Rxf1 Rh4 22.Qb3+ Kg6 23.Kf2-+)* 21.Qc4+ Kg6



22.Qe4+ f5 *(22...Kh6? 23.Qg4-+)* 23.Qxc6+ Kh7 24.Qxc7 Rxa7-+ *(24...Qh1+? 25.Kf2-+)*]

19...Be6 20.Qd4 Rab8 21.Qxd7+ Bxd7 22.Rfb1 Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)

[Don't do 22.Bxa7 Rb5 23.Be3 Ra8±]

1-0

C28

□ **Naiditsch,Arkadij** **2702**

■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2817**

Grenke Chess Classic 4th (2) 16.04.2017

[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Na5 5.Nge2 Bc5 White should prevent ...Nf6-g4. **6.0-0**

[6.Ng3 d6 7.h3 Nxc4 8.dxc4 h6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Qd3 0-0 11.Bd2 a6 12.b3 c6 13.Rad1 b5 14.cxb5 axb5 15.a4 b4 16.Na2 Qb6 17.Qf3 d5 18.Nc1 Bd4 19.Nd3 c5 20.Nh5

Nxe4 Jensen,A (2422)-Meleghegyi,C (2616) corr FIN jub30 GM-2 1991 0-1]
[6.h3 Nxc4 7.dxc4 d6 8.Qd3 Be6 9.0-0 Nd7 10.b3 0-0 11.Be3 Qh4 12.Bxc5 Nxc5 13.Qe3 a5 14.Rad1 f5 15.f4 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 fxe4 17.Qxe4 Rae8 18.Qe3 Qh6 19.Qg3 Rf5 20.fxe5 dxe5 Vallejo'S Wild Variation,S-Capaliku,A corr DSFM2014-D-V2 P ½-½]

6...0-0N
[6...d6 7.Bb3 a6 8.h3 0-0 9.Ng3 c6 10.Qf3 Nxb3 11.axb3 Ne8 12.Be3 Nc7 13.Bxc5 dxc5 14.Qh5 Qf6 15.Na4 Ne6 16.Qf5 Nd4 17.Qxf6 gxf6 18.Rfc1 Ne6 19.Nb6 Rb8 20.Nh5 Nd4 21.Kf1 Henno,F (2315)-Christophe,N (2365) (m/1) 50/562 1990 (2.3) 1-0]

7.Ng3 h6 Dodges Bc1-g5 **8.h3** The position is equal. **8...d6 9.Bb3** -0.16/18
[9.Na4 0.30/17 is superior.]

9...c6 0.25/18
[9...Nxb3 -0.16/18 is more appropriate. 10.axb3 a6]

10.Na4= Nxb3 11.axb3 Bb4 12.Bd2 Bxd2 13.Qxd2 d5 14.Qb4 -0.31/19
[White should play 14.exd5= 0.21/17 cxd5 15.d4]

14...b6∓ 15.Nc3 -0.73/17
[15.Nxb6 Rb8 16.Qc3 Rxb6-+ *(16...axb6? 17.Qxe5 Be6 18.Qc3-+)*]
[15.Qc3∓ -0.34/17]

15...c5 16.Qa3 d4 17.Nce2 a5 18.f4 Be6 19.Rae1 exf4 20.Nxf4 Nd7 21.Qa1 Qg5 22.Kh2 Ne5 23.Qd1 Rae8 24.Nge2 Ng6 Black has more active pieces. **25.Qc1 Qe5 26.Kg1 Nh4 27.g3 Ng6 28.Kg2 Qd6 29.Kh2 Ne5** Strongly threatening ...Be6-d7. **30.Kg2** -1.31/18
[⌓30.Nxe6 -0.72/19 Rxe6 *(30...fxe6 31.Kg2∓)* 31.Rf5]

30...f5 -0.72/19
[Black should try 30...Bd7 -1.31/18 aiming for ...f7-f5. 31.g4 b5]

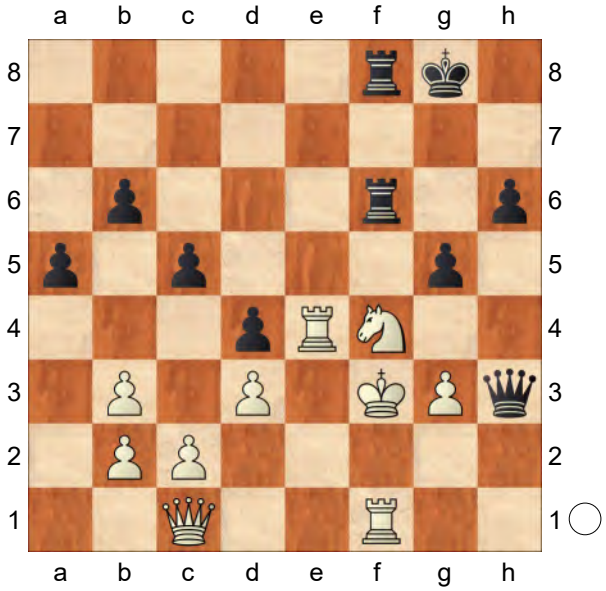
31.Nxe6∓ Rxe6 32.exf5 Qd5+
[32...Qc6+ simplifies 33.Kh2 Nf3+ 34.Rxf3 Rxe2+ 35.Rxe2 Qxf3 36.Qe1 Rxf5 37.h4 Kh7]

33.Kg1 -2.03/23 Loses the game.
[33.Kh2∓ -0.66/23 Ref6 34.g4 *(34.Nf4? Nf3+ 35.Rxf3 Qxf3-+)* 34...Nf3+ 35.Rxf3 Qxf3 36.Qf4]

33...Ref6-+ 34.Nf4 Nf3+ 35.Kf2
[Much worse is 35.Kh1 Qb7 36.Re4 Ng5-+]

35...Qxf5 36.Kxf3 Kf3-g2 is the strong threat. **36...Qxh3 37.Re4?** -4.70/24
[37.Rg1 -2.05/21 keeps fighting. Rxf4+ 38.Qxf4 Qh5+ *(38...Rxf4+? 39.Kxf4 Qh2 40.Rc1-+; 38...g5 39.Qxf8+ Kxf8 40.Rh1=)* 39.Kf2]

37...g5



Pin **38.Ke2 Qxg3** Pin
[Weaker is 38...gxf4 39.gxf4 Re6 40.Re1∓]

39.Rf3 Qg4 Pin **40.Qh1?** -9.77/23
[40.Kf2 -3.21/20]

40...Rxf4

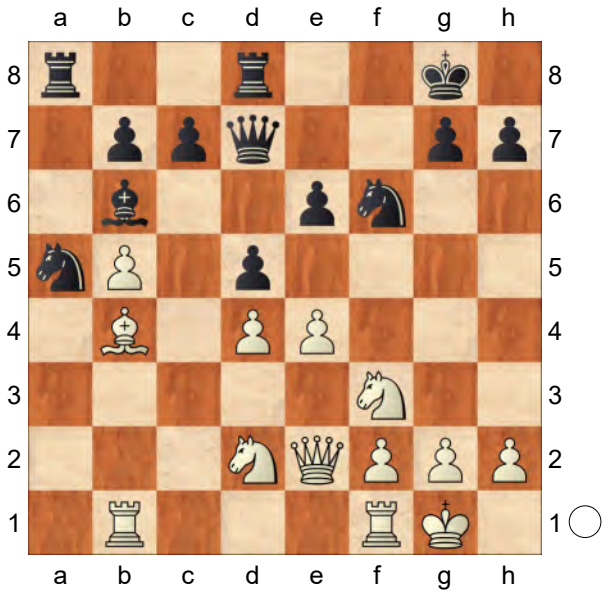
Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/ Black=0.12 (very precise)
0-1

C54

□ **Fedoseev,Vladimir1** **2726**
■ **Wang,Yue** **2699**
Dortmund 45th (7) 23.07.2017
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bc5N
[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 19.Raxd1 Deschamps,Q (2632)-Lopez Ramirez,D (2436) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (8) 1-0 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 axb4 21.Re7 Rc8 22.a5 Kf8 23.Re4 Na8 24.Rd7 Re8 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.Rxg7 h5 Chigaev,M (2632)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2737) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Feb Late blitz 2023 (5) 0-1]
5.0-0 d6 6.c3 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.b4 Bb6 9.Nbd2 White is slightly better.
9...a6 10.a4 Qd7 11.Ba3 Ba7 12.b5 Na5 0.90/17
[12...axb5± 0.53/19 13.axb5 Nd8]
13.Bb4± Bb6 14.Rb1 0-0 15.d4 exd4 16.cxd4 axb5 17.axb5 Rfd8
[17...Qxb5? loses. 18.Bxd6 Qd7 19.Bxf8 Rxf8 20.Re1+-]
18.Qe2 d5 1.31/19
[⌓18...c5 0.95/16]

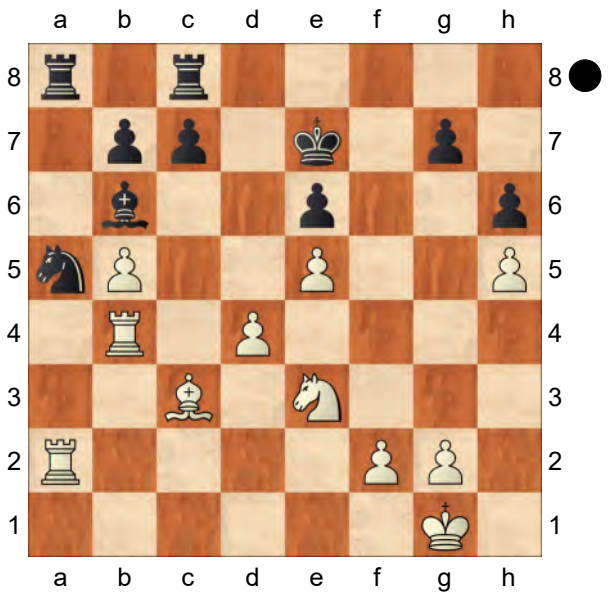
(Diagram)



19.e5! Ne4 1.95/21 **20.Nxe4+- dxe4 21.Qxe4** Strongly threatening Nf3-g5.
21...Qd5 1.46/18
[21...h6+- 1.83/20 22.Qc2 Qxb5]
22.Qc2± Nf3-g5 would now be deadly.
22...Qc4 2.39/20
[⌓22...h6 1.82/20 23.Be7 Rd7]
23.Rfc1+- Qxc2 24.Rxc2 Rd5 2.50/19
[24...c6 1.81/19 is a better defense. 25.Bxa5 Remove Defender Rxa5]
25.Be1 Rf8 26.Rb4 Rf5 27.h4 h6 28.Bd2 Rf8 29.Ra2 Kf7 30.Bc3 Ra8 31.Nd2 Ke7 32.Nf1 Ra7 33.Ne3 Rd8 34.Rc2 Rc8 35.h5 Raa8 36.Ra2

(Diagram)

Rb4-a4 is the strong threat. **36...Ra7 37.Ra1 Rca8 38.Rab1 Rg8 39.Kf1**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.27 (precise)
1-0



C28

□ **Nabaty,Tamir** **2639**
■ **Inarkiev,Ernesto** **2665**
Ulcinj_14210 2019
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.d3 Nf6 4.a3
[4.Nf3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 Deschamps,Q (2632)-Lopez Ramirez,D (2436) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (8) 1-0]

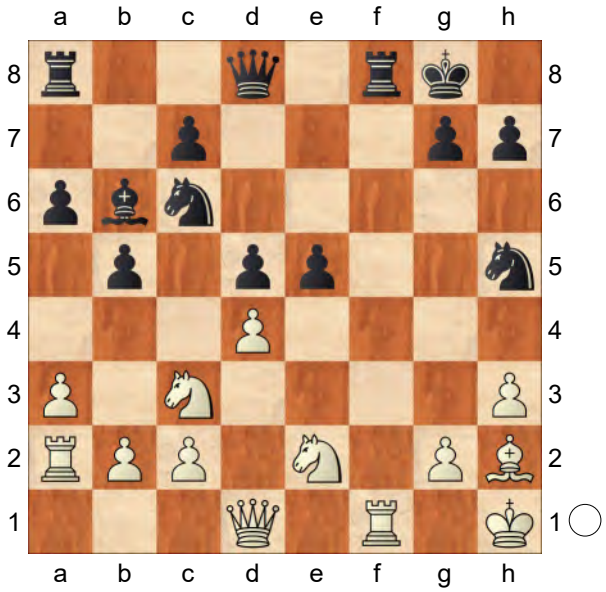
4...Bc5 5.Nc3
[5.h3 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Nc3 Be6 9.Ne4 Bb6 10.0-0 h6 11.Qe2 Qd7 12.Bxd5 Bxd5 13.c4 Bxe4 14.dxe4 f5 15.c5 fxe4 16.Qxe4 Bxc5 17.Qc4+ Kh8 18.Qxc5 Rxf3 19.gxf3 Nd4 De Resende,S (1681)-Bianchi,E (1800) Hebraica op 31st 2023 (4) ½-½]

5...a6N
[5...Nd4 6.Nf3 d6 7.Na4 Bg4 8.Nxc5 dxc5 9.c3 Nxf3+ 10.gxf3 Bh5 11.Rg1 Qd7 12.Be3 0-0-0 13.Qb3 Bxf3 14.Rg3 Bh5 15.Bxc5 c6 16.a4 b6 17.Ba6+ Kc7 18.Be3 Ng4 19.d4 Nxe3 20.fxe3 Maryasin,B (2380)-Mikhalevski,V (2540) Lost Boys op 1998 (9) 0-1]

6.h3 d6 7.Nge2 b5 8.Ba2 The position is equal. **8...Be6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Kh1 Bxa2 11.Rxa2 d5 12.f4 exf4 13.e5 Nh5**
[13...Nxe5?! 14.d4±]

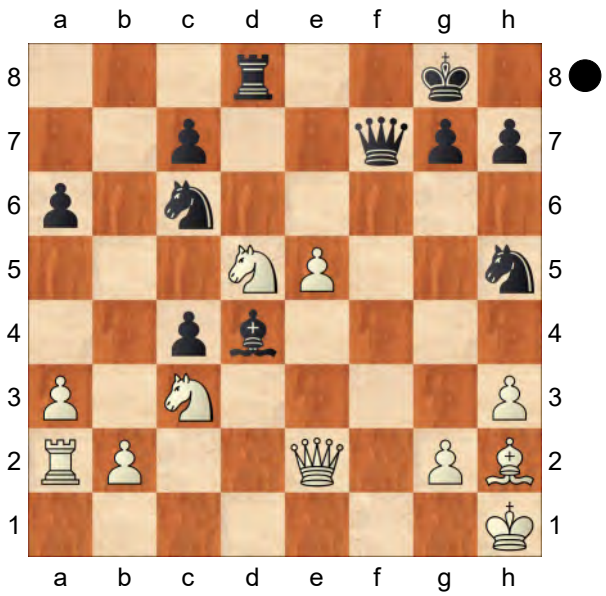
14.d4 Bb6 White must now prevent ...f7-f6. **15.Bxf4 f6** -0.02/18
[15...Nxf4∓ -0.43/20 16.Rxf4 Ne7]

16.Bh2= fxe5



And now ...Rf8xf1+ would win. **17.Rxf8+ Qxf8 18.dxe5 Rd8↑** Black is on the roll. **19.Nxd5 Qf7** Black is more active. **20.c4 bxc4 21.Nec3** Hoping for Ra2-a1. **21...Bd4** Strongly threatening ... Bd4xc3! **22.Qe2** -2.55/23
[22.e6∓ -1.27/21 was necessary. Qxe6 23.Nxc7]

(Diagram)

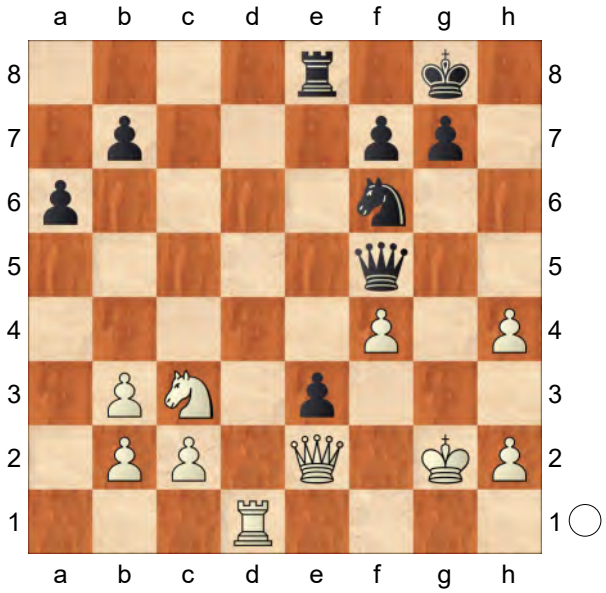


This move loses the game for White.
22...Nxe5!-+ 23.Bxe5 Re8
[23...Rxd5? 24.Nxd5 Qxd5 25.Bxc7+-]
24.Qxc4 Bxe5 25.Ra1 Kh8 -2.14/19
[⌓25...Ng3+ -3.67/22 26.Kg1 Kh8]
26.Kg1? -5.34/21
[26.Ne3 -2.14/19 is more resistant. Qg6 27.Ng4 Ng3+ 28.Kg1 Qb6+ 29.Kh2]
26...c6 aiming for ...Qf7-a7+. Black is clearly winning. **27.Qxc6** -9.34/20
[⌓27.Ne3 -4.88/20 Qa7 28.Ncd1]
27...Qa7+ 28.Nb6 Bd4+ 29.Kh1 Ng3+
[Worse is 29...Qxb6 30.Qxe8#]
30.Kh2 Qb8
Weighted Error Value: White=0.72/ Black=0.12 (very precise)
[Stronger than 30...Qxb6 31.Qxe8#]
0-1

C24
□ **Ragger,Markus** **2666**
■ **Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter** **2682**
Graz m (5) 21.02.2018
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 0-0 8.Nxe5 Qe7 9.f4 dxe4 10.d4
[10.Nc3 exd3 11.0-0-0 dxc2 12.Rde1 Qc7 13.g4 Be6 14.g5 Nfd7 15.g6 Nxe5 16.gxh7+ Kh8 17.fxe5 Bxb3 18.Rhg1 g6 19.axb3 Nd7 20.Qg5 Bartel,M (2621)-Tari,A (2635) POL-chT Ekstraliga 2023 (8.4) 1-0]
10...Be6
[10...Nd5 11.0-0 f6 12.Nc4 Kh8 13.Nc3 Nxc3 14.Qxc3 f5 15.Ne5 Be6 16.Qh3 Kg8 17.g4 fxg4 18.Qxg4 Bxb3 19.axb3 Na6 20.Rae1 Nc7 21.Rxe4 Ne8 22.Qd7 Qxd7 23.Nxd7 Rf7 24.Ne5 Re7 25.Ree1 10.♗a3 b6 11.ba5 ♘h5_1525 (2785)-Gishi,T (2653) Sollentuna op 1995 (11.3) 1-0]
11.0-0N -0.51/18
[11.Bxe6= -0.06/17 is more appropriate. Qxe6 12.c4]
[11.Nc3]
11...Bxb3∓ 12.axb3 c5 13.dxc5 Qxc5+ 14.Qf2 e3 15.Qe2 Nc6 16.Nxc6 Qxc6 17.Nc3 Rfe8 18.Rad1 Qb6 19.Na4 -0.92/19
[19.Rf3∓ -0.51/19]
19...Qc7 20.Nc3 a6 -0.49/18
[20...Rad8∓ -1.00/17]
21.g3 -1.11/19
[21.Rf3∓ -0.49/18]
21...h5 22.Rfe1 Rad8 23.Rxd8 Qxd8
[23...Rxd8?! 24.Qxe3 h4 25.Qf3∓]
24.Rd1 Qa5 25.Kg2 -1.85/20
[25.Rd3∓ -1.21/20 was called for.]

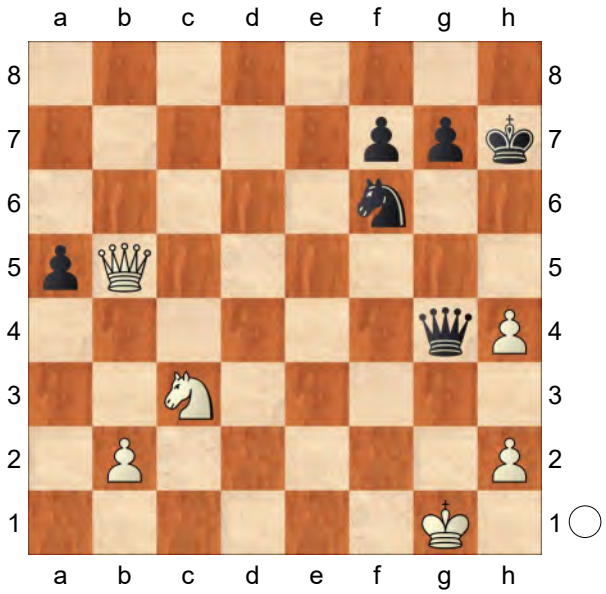
25...Qf5-+ 26.Qd3 Qc8 27.Qe2 h4 28.gxh4 -3.24/20
[28.Kg1 -2.24/20 was necessary.]
28...Qf5



White must now prevent ...Nf6-h5!
29.Rf1 Rd8 -2.06/23
[29...Nh5 30.Kh1-+]
[⌓29...b5 -3.65/19 30.b4 a5 *(30...Nh5? 31.Kh1-+)* 31.bxa5 b4]
30.Qxe3 Qxc2+ 31.Rf2 Qxb3 32.Rd2 Rxd2+ 33.Qxd2 Endgame. KQN-KQN
33...Qc4 34.Qd8+ Kh7 35.Qb6 Qxf4 -1.38/20
[35...Qc8-+ -1.88/19 36.Qf2 b5 37.Qc2+ Kh8]
36.Qxb7∓ Qd2+
[36...Qxh4 37.Qxa6 Qg5+ 38.Kf3∓]
37.Kg1 a5 38.Qb5 Qd4+ 39.Kg2 Qg4+
[39...Qxh4 40.Qxa5 Qf4 41.Qd8∓]
40.Kh1 Qf3+ 41.Kg1 Qg4+? -0.01/18
[41...g6-+ -1.64/19 aiming for ...Qf3-g4+. 42.Qe5 Ng4]

(Diagram)

42.Kh1!= Qxh4 -0.94/22



[42...g6-+ -1.74/20 43.Qg5 Qf3+ 44.Kg1 Kg7]
43.Qxa5∓ Qe1+ 44.Kg2 Qd2+ 45.Kf3! Qd3+
[45...Qxb2 46.Qf5+ Kh6 47.Qf4+ Kg6 48.Qg3+ Kf5 49.Qf4+ Ke6 *(49...Kg6 50.Qg3+ Kf5 51.Qf4+ Ke6 52.Qc4+ Kd7 53.Qxf7+ Kd6 54.Ne4+ Nxe4 55.Qf4+ Qe5 56.Qxe4=)* 50.Qc4+ Ke7 51.Qc7+ Ke6 52.Qc4+ Kf5 53.Qf4+ Kg6 54.Qg3+ Kh5 55.Qh3+ Kg6 56.Qg3+=]
46.Kg2 Qc2+ 47.Kf3 Qd3+ 0.01/19
[Don't play 47...Qxb2 48.Qf5+ Kh6 49.Qf4+ Kg6 50.Qg3+ Kh6 51.Qf4+ Kg6 52.Qg3+ Kf5 53.Qf4+ Ke6 *(53...Kg6 54.Qg3+=)* 54.Qc4+ Kd7 55.Qxf7+ Kd6 56.Qc4=]
[47...Nd7∓ -0.68/18]
48.Kg2= Qd2+ 0.01/18
[48...Qg6+∓ -0.72/19 49.Kf1 Ng4]
49.Kf3! Qxh2 Threatens to win with ... Qh2-h3+.
[But not 49...Qxb2 50.Qf5+ Kh6 51.Qf4+ Kg6 52.Qg3+ Kf5 53.Qf4+ Ke6 *(53...Kg6 54.Qg3+ Kh7 55.Qh3+ Kg6 56.Qg3+=)* 54.Qc4+

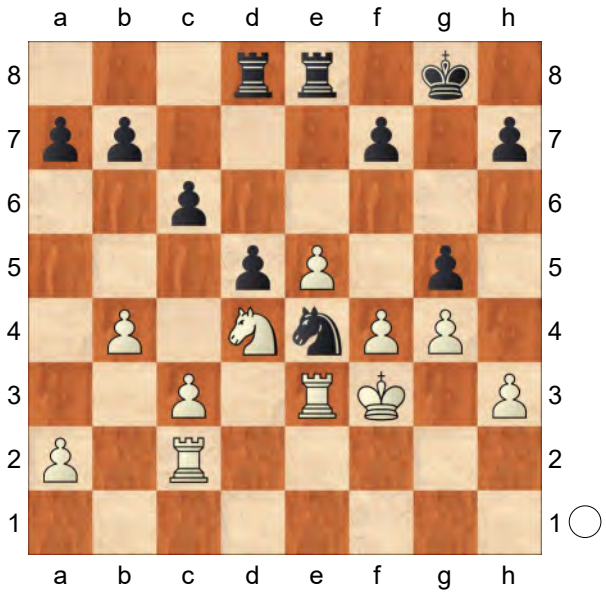
Kd7 55.Qxf7+ Kd6 56.Qc4±]
50.Qf5+ Kg8 51.Qc8+ Kh7 52.Qf5+ Kh8 53.Qc8+ Kh7 White happily takes the draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.25 (precise)
½-½

C24
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2840**
■ **Wei,Yi** **2706**
Tata Steel-A 79th (4) 17.01.2017
[Kitty Kat]

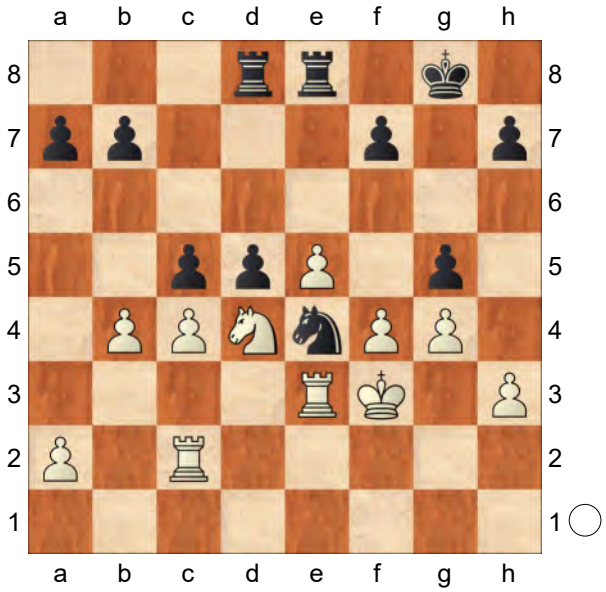
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Bb3 0-0 7.c3 Nbd7 8.Re1 Nc5 9.Bc2 Bg4 10.Nbd2 Ne6 11.h3 Bh5 12.Nf1 Nd7 The position is equal. **13.g4 Bg6 14.Ng3 Ng5 15.Bxg5 Bxg5 16.d4 Bf4 17.Ne2 Qf6 18.Kg2 exd4 19.Nfxd4 Rfe8 20.Nxf4 Qxf4 21.f3**
[21.Qf3 simplifies Qxf3+ 22.Kxf3 Nb6 23.Re2]
21...Nb6 0.46/21
[21...Nc5= 0.01/19 is more appropriate.]
22.Qc1± Qxc1 23.Raxc1 d5 24.e5 Nd7 25.f4 f4-f5 would now be deadly. White is more active. **25...Bxc2 26.Rxc2**
[26.Nxc2 f6=]
26...Nc5 27.Re3 Against Nc5-d3 **27...Rad8 28.Kf3 Ne4 29.b4 g5** 1.28/20
[⌓29...f6 0.76/20]

(Diagram)

30.c4!± c5? 3.05/22



[30...Rd7± 1.23/19 is a better defense. 31.Nf5 b5]

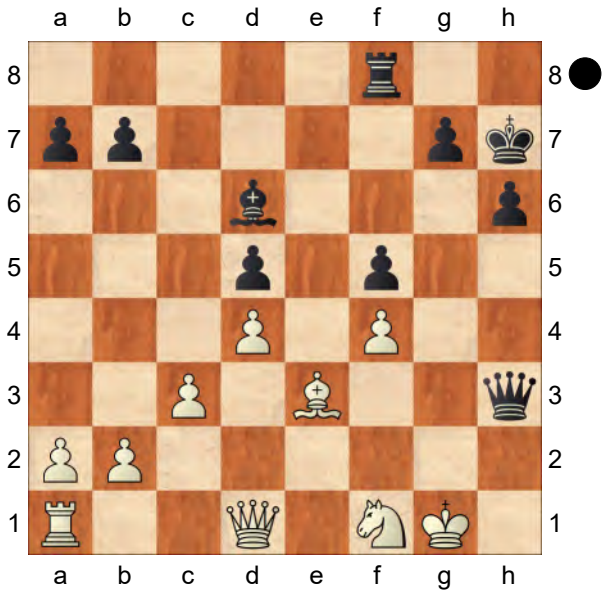


Black cannot hold the game after this.
31.Nb5!+- gxf4 32.Kxf4 cxb4 33.cxd5
[33.Nxa7 Nc5 34.cxd5 Rxd5-+]
[Much less strong is 33.Nc7 Nc3+-]
33...Nc3N 34.Nxc3 bxc3 35.Rd3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.25 (precise)
[Less strong is 35.Rcxc3 Rxd5 36.Rc7 Ra5=]
1-0

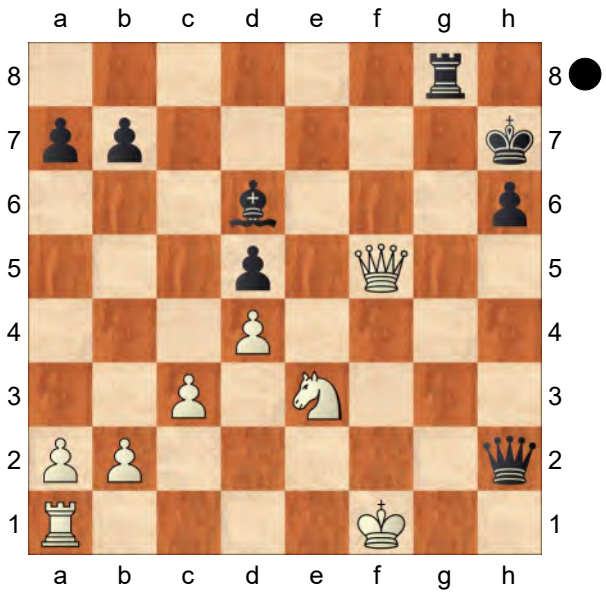
C55

□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2840**
■ **Bok,Benjamin** **2598**
World Rapid Championship, Doha (6.1)
[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Be7N
[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 19.Raxd1 Deschamps,Q (2632)-Lopez Ramirez,D (2436) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (8) 1-0 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 axb4 21.Re7 Rc8 22.a5 Kf8 23.Re4 Na8 24.Rd7 Re8 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.Rxg7 h5 Chigaev,M (2632)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2737) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Feb Late blitz 2023 (5) 0-1]
5.0-0 0-0 6.Bb3 d6 7.c3 Be6 8.Re1 Qd7 9.Nbd2 Rab8 10.Bc2 d5 11.h3 h6 White has an edge. **12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Rxe5 Bd6 15.Re1**
[15.Re4 simplifies c5 16.d4 Rbd8 17.dxc5 Bxc5]
15...Bxh3 Demolition **16.gxh3 Qxh3 17.Nf1** Repels Bd6-h2+ **17...Rbe8 18.d4** 0.01/20
[18.Bd2!± 0.70/19]
18...f5!= ...Re8xe1 is the strong threat. **19.Bb3! c6** ...Kg8-h7 would now be deadly. **20.f4 Kh7!** White must now prevent ...Rf8-f6! **21.Bxd5 cxd5 22.Re3?** -1.70/23
[22.Re2= -0.01/22 and White has nothing to worry.]
22...Rxe3-+ 23.Bxe3
(Diagram)



g5! 24.Kf2
[24.fxg5 f4]
24...gxf4 25.Qf3 fxe3+ 26.Nxe3 Qh2+ 27.Kf1 Rg8 28.Qxf5+

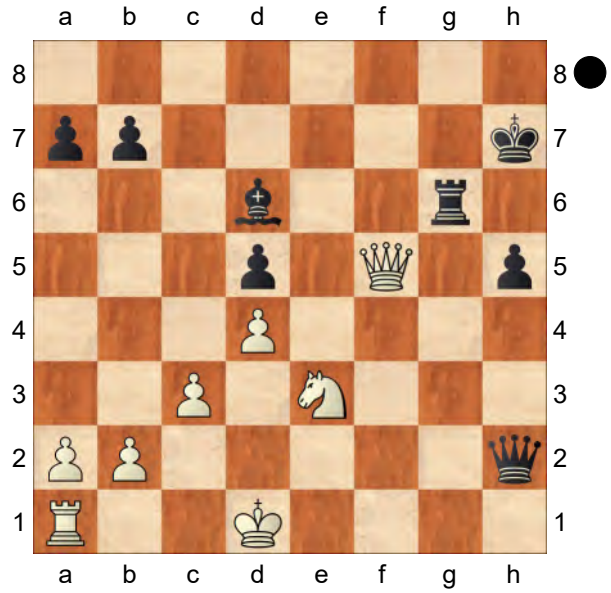


Rg6!
[28...Kh8 29.Qf6+ Kh7 30.Qf5+ Rg6 *(30...Kh8? 31.Qf6+ Kh7 32.Qf5+-+)* 31.Ke1]
29.Ke1 h5 -0.51/22
[29...Qxb2?! 30.Rb1 Qxc3+ 31.Ke2=]
[29...Kg7∓ -1.37/22 Hoping for ...Rg6-g1+. 30.Qd7+ Kh8 31.Qd8+ Kh7

32.Qd7+ Rg7 33.Qf5+ Kh8]

30.Kd1? -2.04/24

[30.Rd1!∓ -0.51/22]



30...Kh6!

[30...Qxb2 31.Rb1 *(31.Qxh5+? Kg7-+)* 31...Qxc3 32.Qxh5+ *(32.Rxb7+ Kh6∓)* 32...Rh6 33.Rxb7+ *(33.Qxd5 Qd3+ 34.Kc1 Qxe3+ 35.Kd1 Qd3+ 36.Kc1 Bf4+ 37.Kb2 Rh2+)* 33...Bc7 34.Qf7+ *(34.Nxd5? Qxd4+ 35.Kc2 Rxh5-+)* 34...Kh8 35.Qe8+ *(35.Qxc7 Qd3+ 36.Ke1 Qxe3+ 37.Kd1 Qd3+ 38.Ke1 Rh1+ 39.Kf2 Rf1+ 40.Kg2 Qf3+ 41.Kh2 Rh1#; 35.Nxd5 Rh1+)* 35...Kh7 36.Qd7+ *(36.Rxa7 Qxd4+ 37.Ke1 Qc3+ 38.Kf1 Rh1+ 39.Kg2 Rh2+ 40.Kf3 Qf6+; 36.Qe7+ Kh8±)* 36...Kg6 37.Qg4+ *(37.Rxc7 Rh1+ 38.Ke2 Re1+ 39.Kf3 Rxe3+ 40.Kf2 Qd2+ 41.Kg1 Re1#; 37.Qf5+ Kg7±)* 37...Kh7 38.Ke2= *(38.Nxd5 Rh1+ 39.Ke2 Re1+ 40.Kf2 Qd2+ 41.Kf3 Qe2#; 38.Qd7+ Kg6±)*]

31.Nc2 -3.26/23

[⌓31.Rc1 -2.01/21]

31...h4 32.Ne1 h3

[Resist 32...Qxb2 33.Rc1-+]

33.Nf3? -5.86/23

[33.Rc1 -2.90/21]

33...Qg2 (-> ...Qg2-f1+). Black is clearly winning.

[Stronger than 33...Qxb2 34.Qxh3+ Kg7 35.Qd7+ Kg8 36.Qe8+ Kg7 37.Qd7+ Kg8 38.Qe8+ Kh7 39.Qd7+ Kg8=]

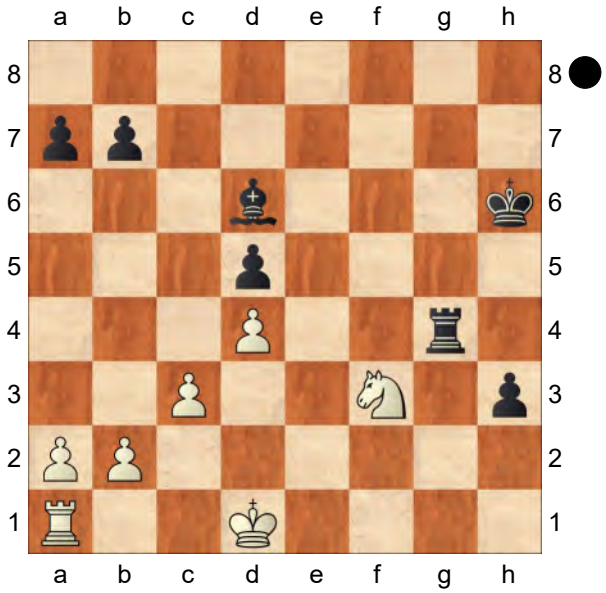
34.Ne1 -9.02/23

[⌓34.Nd2 -4.73/22 h2 *(34...Qg4+? 35.Qxg4 Rxg4 36.Ke2-+)* 35.Kc2]

34...Qg4+

[34...Qxb2 35.Qxh3+ Kg5 36.Rc1=]

35.Qxg4 Rxg4 36.Nf3



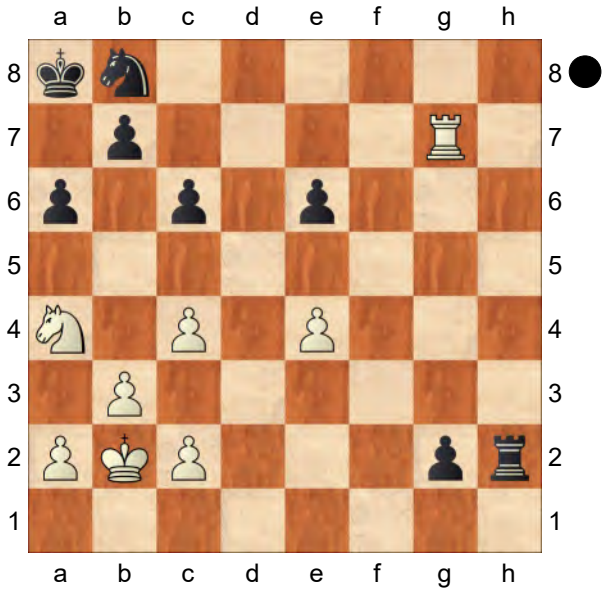
Rg1+!! Promotion.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.80/ Black=0.12 (very precise) . Loss on time!?

1-0

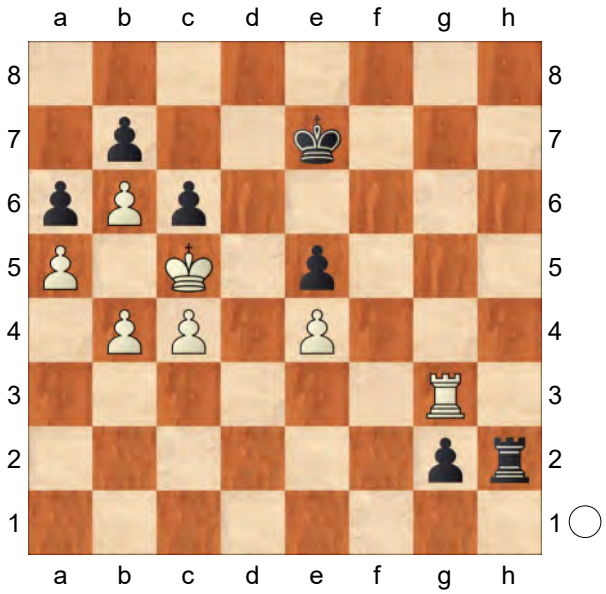
C23
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** 2771
■ **Adla,Diego Gustavo** 2383
Titled Tuesday intern op 12th Dec Early blitz (2)
[Kitty Kat]

C23: Bishop's Opening: 2...Bc5
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Qf3 Nc6 4.Ne2 Be7 5.d3 d6 6.h3 Prevents Bc8-g4.
6...Na5 7.Nbc3 c6N
[7...0-0 8.0-0 c6 9.a4 Nxc4 10.dxc4 Be6 11.b3 Qa5 12.Rd1 Rfd8 13.Bd2 Qc7 14.Be3 Qa5 15.Bd2 Qc7 16.Bg5 h6 17.Be3 Qa5 18.Bd2 Qc7 19.Bc1 Rd7 20.Ng3 Rad8 21.Ba3 Qa5 22.Rd3 Model Games-So,W]
8.g4 -0.58/21
[White should try 8.a4= 0.04/21]
8...Nxc4∓ 9.dxc4 Be6 10.g5 -1.00/19
[Better is 10.b3∓ -0.39/21]
10...Nd7∓ 11.b3 Bxg5 12.Bxg5 Qxg5 13.Rg1 -1.70/21
[13.Rd1∓ -1.10/21]
13...Qf6 -0.79/19
[13...Qh6-+ -1.70/21 has better winning chances. 14.h4 Qxh4]
14.Qd3 -1.33/19
[⌓14.Qe3 -0.79/19]
14...0-0-0 15.Qxd6 Bxh3 -1.29/21
[15...Nf8-+ -1.69/23 16.Qc5 Kb8 *(16...Bxh3 17.Qxa7 Kc7 18.a4=)*]
16.Qa3 -2.04/18
[16.Qxf6∓ -1.29/21 is a better defense. gxf6 17.Rh1]
16...Kb8-+ 17.0-0-0 h5
[17...Qxf2 18.Rxg7 *(18.Qd6+ Kc8∓)* 18...Be6 *(18...Nc5 19.Rxh7 Bf1 20.Kb2∓)* 19.Kb2 *(19.Qd6+? Kc8-+)*]
18.Rd3 Be6 19.Qd6+ Ka8 20.Rgd1 h4
[Don't take 20...Qxf2 21.Kb2]
21.f4 exf4 22.Nxf4 -3.76/19
[⌓22.Qxf4 -2.54/20 Qxf4+ Remove Defender 23.Nxf4]
22...Nb8 23.Nxe6 fxe6
[Not 23...Rxd6 24.Nc7#]
24.Qc7 Rxd3 25.Rxd3 h3 26.Qh2 Qg5+ 27.Kb2 Qg2 0.06/23
[27...Qh4-+ -2.99/22 ...g7-g5 is the strong threat. 28.Rf3 g5]
28.Qxg2= hxg2 Endgame. KRN-KRN
29.Rg3 Rh2⇄ Black is not keeping still
30.Rxg7 a6 31.Na4



Nd7! Promotion **32.c5 Kb8**
[32...Ka7!?]
33.b4 Kc8 Hoping for ...Nd7-e5.
[33...Ka7!?]
34.Nb6+ Nxb6 35.cxb6 Strongly threatening Kb2-c3. KR-KR **35...e5?** 4.93/24
[35...c5!= 0.07/21]
36.Kb3+- Kd8 37.c3 Ke8 38.Kc4 Kf8 39.Rg5 Kf7 40.Kc5 Kf6 6.22/22
[⌓40...Ke7 4.16/20 41.Rg3 Ke6]
41.Rg3 White is clearly winning.
41...Ke6 42.c4 Ke7 43.a4 Ke6 44.a5 Ke7

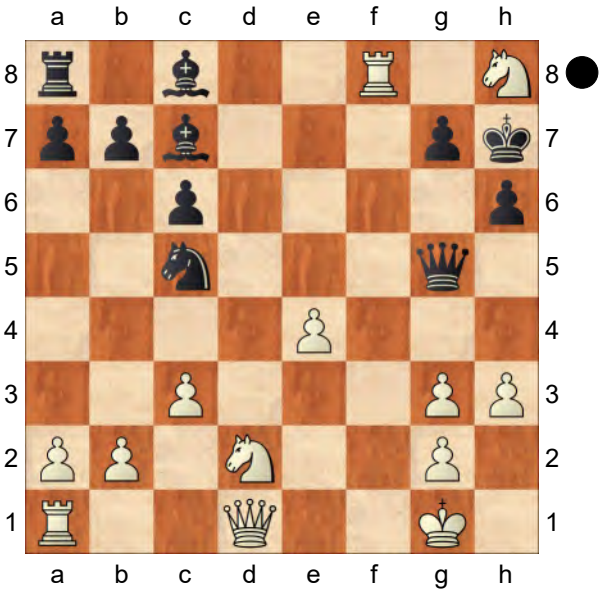
(Diagram)



45.b5! cxb5 46.cxb5 g1Q+ 47.Rxg1 Rc2+ 48.Kd5 axb5 49.Rg7+ Kf6 50.Rxb7 Ra2 51.Ra7 b4 52.b7 What a bad dream for Black.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.57
1-0

C24
□ **Molina,Roberto Junio Brito 2877**
■ **Deslandes,Pascal 2801**
EU/MSM/II/final-06 (3.1) 29.08.2014
[Kitty Kat]

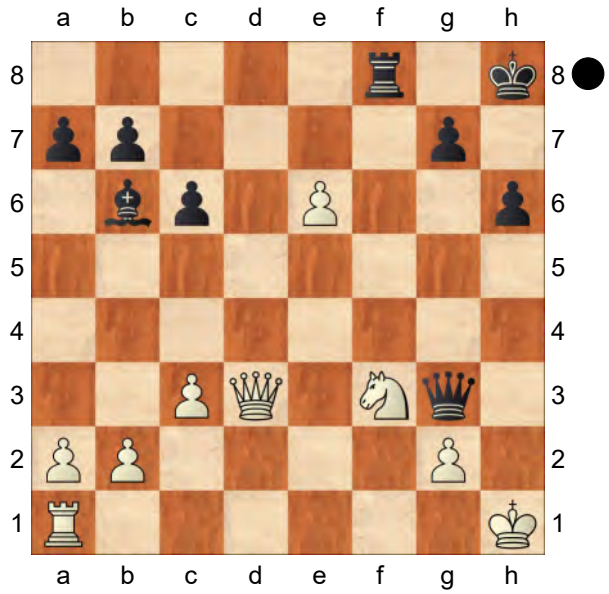
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bg5 dxe4 8.dxe4 h6 9.Bh4 Qe7 The position is equal. **10.Nbd2 Nbd7 11.Bg3 Bc7 12.0-0 Nh5 13.h3 Nxg3 14.fxg3 Nc5 15.Bxf7+** Decoy **15...Kxf7**
[15...Qxf7? 16.Nxe5+-]
16.Nxe5+ -0.92/23 Excellent horsemanship.
[16.Nh4+∓ -0.34/23 Kg8 17.Ng6]
16...Kg8∓ 17.Ng6 Qg5 18.Rf8+
[18.Nxh8? Be6 *(18...Kxh8 19.Rf8+ Kh7 20.e5∓)* 19.e5 *(19.b4? Rd8-+)* 19...Rd8-+ *(19...Kxh8? 20.Qe1-+)*]
18...Kh7 19.Nxh8



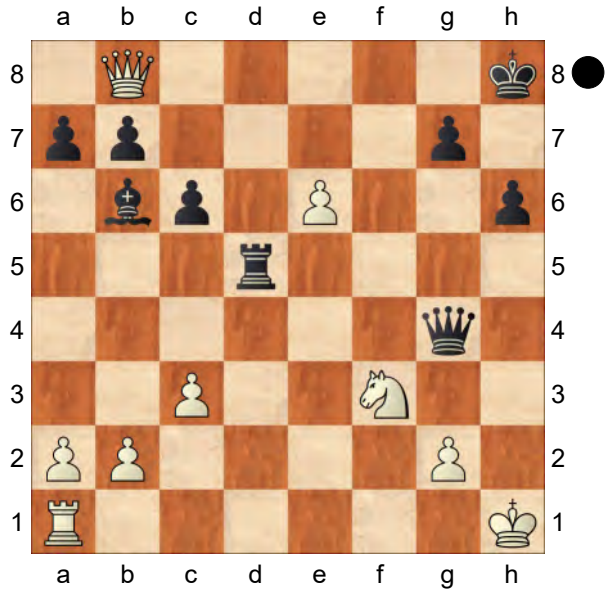
Bg4! Discovered Attack **20.Qf1 Nd3** -0.79/21 Really sharp!
[Black should play 20...Rxf8 -1.24/22 21.Qxf8 Qxd2 22.hxg4 *(22.Qxc5? Qxb2 23.Kh2 Bb6-+)* 22...Nd7]
21.Qxd3
[21.Rxa8? Qe3+ 22.Kh1 *(22.Kh2? Qxg3+ 23.Kh1 Qh2#)* 22...Nf2+-+]
21...Rxf8 22.hxg4 Qxg4 Strongly threatening ...Bc7-b6+.
[22...Rxh8 23.e5+ Qg6 24.Qxg6+ Kxg6 25.Re1+-]
[Reject 22...Rd8 23.Nf3 Bb6+ *(23...Rxd3 24.Nxg5+ hxg5 25.Nf7=; 23...Qxg4 24.Qe3=)* 24.Nd4 Kxh8 25.Qf3±]
23.Nf3 Qxg3 Black is more active.
[23...Rxh8 24.e5+ g6 25.Nh2±]
24.e5+ Kxh8 25.e6 -1.34/21
[⌓25.Rf1 -0.90/21]
25...Bb6+! 26.Kh1

(Diagram)

Qg4! 27.Qd6 Rd8 28.Qe5 Rd5



29.Qb8+



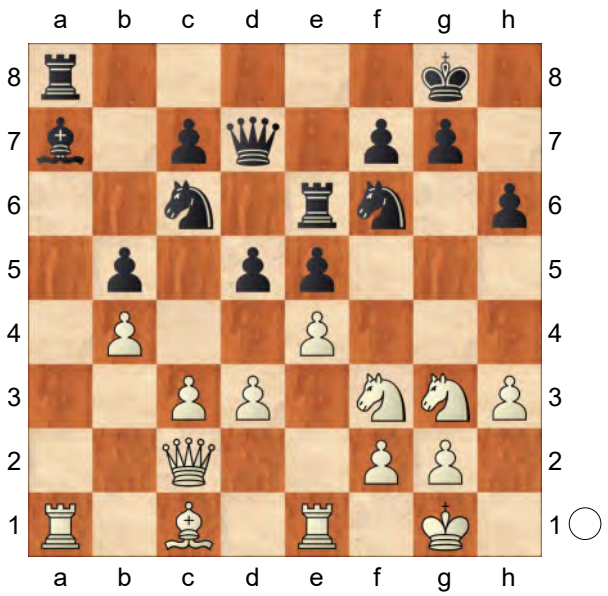
Kh7! 30.e7 Qh5+ 31.Nh2? -16.79/27
This move loses the game for White.
[31.Qh2∓ -1.20/24 Qe8 32.g3]
31...Rd1+-+ Black is clearly winning.
32.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 33.Nf1 Qxf1+ 34.Kh2 Qg1+ 35.Kh3N Qe3+ 36.g3 Qxe7
Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.30
0-1

C54
□ **Cheparinov,Ivan 2628**
■ **Amartuvshin,Ganzorig 2402**
Olympiad-45 Budapest (6.19) 16.09.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bc5 4.d3 Nf6 5.c3 a6 6.0-0 Ba7 7.a4 0-0 8.Re1 d6 9.h3 The position is equal.
9...h6 10.Nbd2 Re8 11.b4
[11.Nf1 Be6 12.Bb3 Qd7 13.Be3 Bxe3 14.Nxe3 d5 15.Qc2 dxe4 16.Bxe6 Qxe6 17.dxe4 Rad8 18.Rad1 Ne7 19.Rd3 Ng6 20.c4 Rxd3 21.Qxd3 Nf4 22.Qb3 Nxe4 23.Nd5 Nc5 24.Qa3 Ncd3 25.Nxf4 Nxf4 Pedmanson,A (1939)-Jodorcovsky,A (2053) World ol U16 2023 (5.16) ½-½]
11...Be6 12.Bxe6 Rxe6 13.Qc2 b5N
[13...Re8 14.Nf1 b5 15.Ng3 Ne7 16.d4 Nd7 17.Be3 Ng6 18.Nf5 Ne7 19.Ng3 Ng6 20.Nf5 Ne7 21.dxe5 Bxe3 22.Nxe3 Nxe5 23.Nxe5 dxe5 24.Red1 Qc8 25.c4 bxa4 26.Qxa4 Qb7 27.Nd5 c6 28.Nxe7+ Kunz,H (2526)-Kravitz,N (2575) 92/(464) Eforie Nord 2004 (7) 1-0 Qxe7 29.c5 Qb7 30.Rd6 Rec8 31.Qa5 Rab8 32.Ra4 Qb5 33.Qxb5 Rxb5 34.f3 a5 35.bxa5 Rxc5 36.a6 Kf8 37.Rd7 Ke8 38.Rb7 Rb5 39.h4 g6 40.Kh2 h5 41.Ra2 Kf8 42.Kg3 Kg7 43.Rd7 Harika,D (2526)-Koneru,H (2575) Chengdu FIDE GP (Women) 2016 (7) 1-0]
14.Nf1 d5 15.Ng3 Qd7 16.axb5 axb5

(Diagram)

aiming for ...Ba7xf2+! **17.Be3 dxe4**



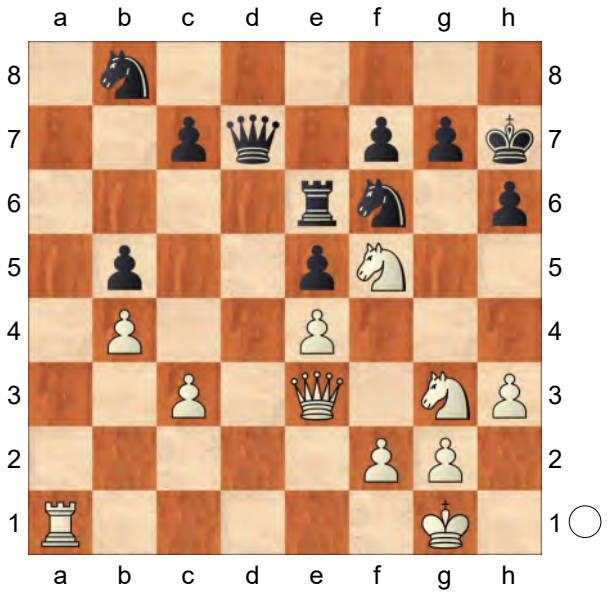
18.dxe4 Black must now prevent Ra1-a3. **18...Ree8 19.Qe2** White is more active. **19...Bxe3 20.Qxe3 Rxa1 21.Rxa1 Nb8** 1.68/19

[21...Qc8± 0.82/20 is a better defense.]

22.Nh4 Strongly threatening Nh4-f5.

22...Kh7 23.Nhf5 Re6? 5.24/22

[23...Rg8 1.89/21 24.Kh2 Qe6]



24.Nxg7!+- Decoy, Clearance **24...Ng4** 9.37/22

[⌓24...Rc6 5.12/20 25.N7f5 Ne8]

[24...Ra6 25.Rxa6]

25.Nxe6

Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.40

1-0

C28

□ **Grischuk,Alexander** **2792**

■ **Tomashevsky,Evgeny** **2695**

FIDE World Rapid 2014 (8.4) 17.06.2014

[Mikhalevski, V, MH]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bb4 One of the two most popular lines together with 4...Na5. **5.Nf3** Grischuk has recently played no less than two games with this line.

[Both 5.Nge2]

[and 5.Bg5 are more popular alternatives.]

5...d6

[Earlier we analysed 5...d5 for you, the game Djurhuus, R-Fyllingen, R/Norwegian Ch., Asker, Norway 2000/[Paul Motwani] is in our PGN Archive.]

6.0-0 Bxc3 The most fashionable line.

[Earlier Black used to prefer 6...Bg4]

7.bxc3 Na5

[Two days later Naiditsch tested the main alternative 7...0-0 and only after 8.Bg5 Na5 The game continued 9.Bb3 h6 10.Bh4 c5 11.Nd2 g5 12.Bg3 Qe7 with a complicated position in Grischuk, A (2792)-Naiditsch, A (2705)/Dubai UAE 2014.]

8.Bb3 h6!? Tomashevsky is following one old game. Black's idea is to prevent a pin by means of 9.Bg5, which might be annoying.

[8...Nxb3 was played more often,

though the position is already pretty rare.]

9.Re1N A new move. White is preparing d3-d4.

[The aforementioned game continued 9.Ba4+ Bd7 10.Bxd7+ Qxd7 *(10...Nxd7* is better.) 11.Nh4!± and White was better in Holmes, H-Giulian, P/Ayr 1974.]

[The immediate 9.d4 looks like a logical alternative.]

[9.h3 Qe7 10.Nh2 Nxb3 11.axb3 g5 Nepomniachtchi,I (2784)-Giri,A (2764) chess24.com (Int.-m1/2-rapid) 146/(99) 2020]

9...0-0 **10.d4** The position is equal.

10...Qe7 This move seems to be slightly inaccurate as the queen comes under attack, though the upcoming exchange combination isn't obvious and is hard to evaluate.

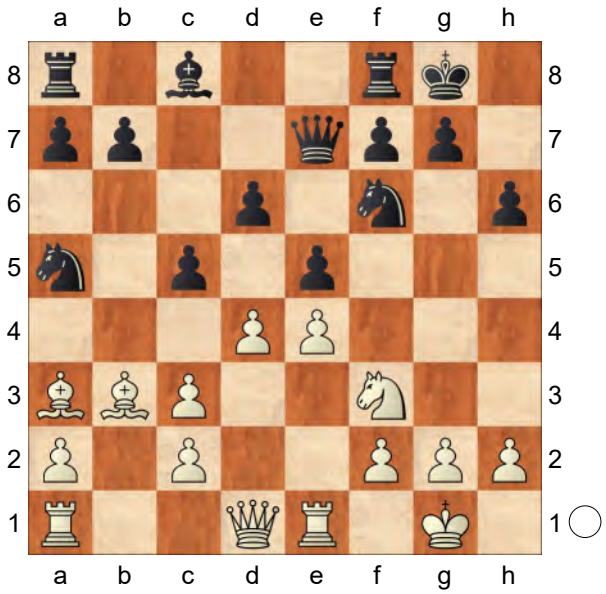
[Black could have chosen 10...Re8!? avoiding 11.Ba3. 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.Nxe5 Nxb3! 14.axb3 With the idea Ne5-d3. Nxe4! 15.c4 Bf5 with roughly equal chances.]

[10...Re8 simplifies 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.Nxe5 Nxb3 14.axb3 Nxe4 15.Bb2 Nd6]

11.Ba3! Black must now prevent d4xe5.

11...c5

(Diagram)



12.Nxe5! Correctly exchanging two pieces for a rook and two pawns. Otherwise Black plays 12...b6 and makes the bishop on a3 look stupid. Deflection **12...dxe5** **13.Bxc5** **Qc7** **14.Bxf8** **Kxf8** **15.Qd3** This move might be slightly inaccurate.

[15.dxe5! deserved serious attention. Qxe5 16.Qd8+! Ne8 17.Qd3± and White seems to be slightly better.]

15...Bd7! Prevents Qd3-b5 **16.f4!?** A good practical chance. **16...exf4** **17.e5** **Ng4↑** Black has good play.

18.g3?! -1.02/22 Grischuk is playing for the initiative, but probably overestimates his chances.

[18.Rf1! would have been better. Nxb3 19.axb3 g5 20.h3 Ne3 21.Qh7! Rd8 22.Qxh6+ Ke8= and a position of dynamic equality has been reached.]

[18.Rf1= 0.01/22]

18...Nxb3

[18...fxg3 simplifies 19.Qxg3 Nxb3 20.axb3 h5]

19.axb3 **g5?!** 0.21/21 Tomashevsky errs under pressure.

[He should have played 19...fxg3! 20.Qxg3 h5!∓ with the subsequent manoeuvre ...Nh6-f5, which seems to yield him the better chances. However, the position would have remained very complicated.]

[19...fxg3∓ -0.89/21 20.Qxg3 h5]

20.gxf4= **gxf4** Now it's not easy for

White to choose between two attacks on the f4-pawn as in both cases he seems to be slightly better. ...Kf8-e7 would now be deadly. **21.Rf1!** This sets serious problems, which Black was unable to solve.

[21.Qf3! 0.01/19 21.Re1-f1 0.38 might be more precise, though, when White wins the f4-pawn and it's Black who is coming under attack. Rd8 22.c4!? *(22.h3!? Ne3 23.Qxf4 Nxc2* aiming for ...Bd7-e6. *24.Rf1 Be6 25.Rac1!±* is also better for White.*; 22.h3!? Ne3□ 23.Qxf4∓)* 22...Ne3 23.Qxf4 Nxc2 ...Qc7-b6 is the strong threat. 24.Qxh6+ Ke8 25.Qh8+ *(25.e6!? Bxe6 26.Rxe6+ fxe6 27.Qxe6+ Qe7 28.Qg6+ Kd7 29.Qxc2±)* 25...Ke7 26.Qf6+ Ke8 27.e6! Bxe6 28.Rxe6+ fxe6 29.Qxe6+ Qe7 30.Qg6+ Kd7 31.Qxc2± and White is better.]

21...Ke7? 0.84/22 Black misses his chance to put up strong resistance.

[21...Ne3! would have been correct, when play may develop as following: 22.Rxf4 Nd5 23.Rf3 *(23.Rf2* -0.49/22 23.Rf4-f3 0.21 *Qxc3=)* 23...Bg4 24.Raf1! Bxf3 25.Qxf3 Nxc3 26.e6! Qe7! 27.Qxc3 Qxe6 28.Re1 and though White is slightly better his win is far from being guaranteed. *(28.Qb4+!?)*]

[21...Ne3± 0.33/22 22.Rxf4 Nd5]

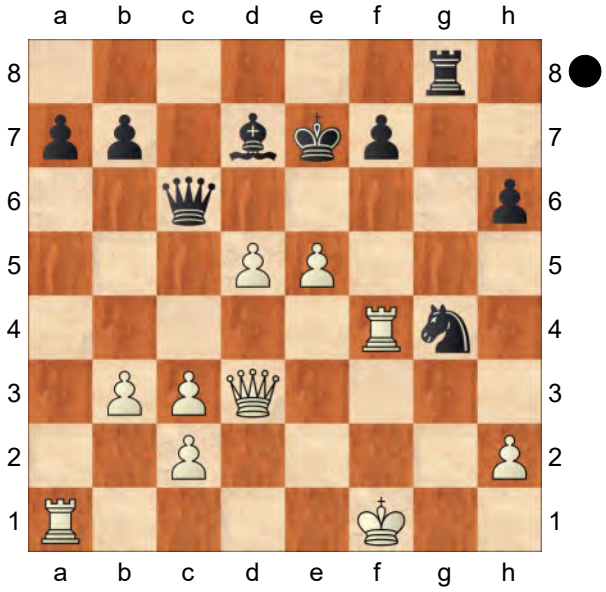
22.Rxf4? -1.62/21 Alexander returns the favour.

[22.h3! was necessary. Ne3 23.Rxf4 Nd5 1.31/22 *(⌓23...Rg8+* 0.74/21 *24.Kf2 Nf5)* 24.Rf3± Rg8+ 25.Kf2!± and White's attack is extremely strong.]

[22.h3!± 0.84/22 Ne3 23.Rxf4 Rg8+ 24.Kf2]

22...Rg8-+ 23.Re1 Probably White saw that he is worse after 23.Kf1 and decided to take a chance.

[23.Kf1 -1.63/22 23.Ra1-e1 -1.25 was better, though Black's chances after Qc6! 24.d5



Qxd5! 25.Qxd5 Ne3+ 26.Kf2 Nxd5∓ are higher.]

[23.Qg3? Nf6 24.exf6+ Kf8-+]

23...Kd8? 0.03/23 Mistakes in such a sharp position in rapid chess are unavoidable.

[After 23...Ne3+! 24.Kf2 Ng2 25.Rf6 Nxe1 26.Kxe1 Be6!∓ Black extra piece should suffice for a win, although some technical problems have to be solved.]

[23...Nxe5+? 24.Kf2 Qc6 25.Rxe5++-]

[23...Be6-+ -1.73/24 24.Kf1 *(24.Qg3? Nf6-+)* 24...Nxh2+ 25.Kf2 b5 26.Qxb5 Qxc3 27.Qb7+ Ke8 *(27...Bd7 28.Rxf7+* Decoy *Kxf7 29.Qxd7+ Kf8 30.Qd8+ Kf7 31.e6+* Deflection *Kg6 32.Qxg8+ Kh5 33.Qf7+ Kh4 34.Qf6+ Kh3 35.Qxh6+ Kg4 36.Re4+ Kf5 37.Rf4#)* 28.Qb8+ Bc8]

24.Kf1? -0.51/21 Grischuk's decision to move away from the g-file is understandable, but he could have stayed there for one more move or moved it in an opposite direction.

[So he should have played either 24.Rf3!? -0.36/21 24.Kg1-h1 0.01 Nxe5+ *(24...Bf5!? 25.Qe2 Nxe5+ 26.Rg3 Ng6=)* 25.Rg3 Ng6 promised a position of dynamic equality.]

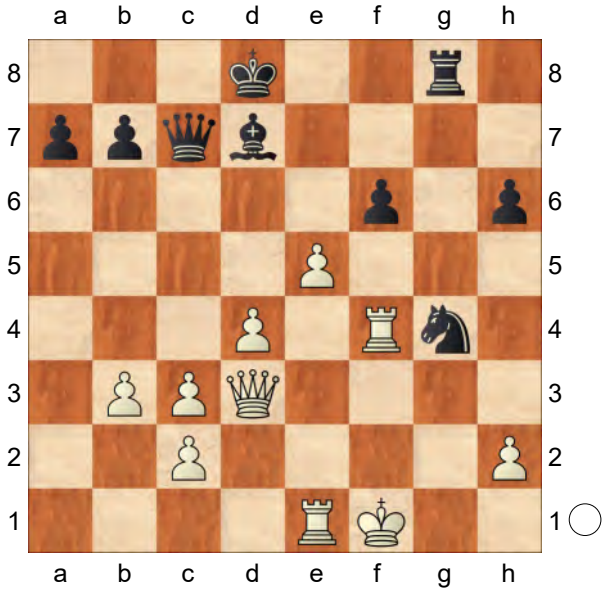
[or 24.Kh1!? f6 25.h3 fxe5 26.Rxg4 Bxg4 27.hxg4 Rxg4 Threatens to win with ...Qc7-c6+. 28.dxe5+ Ke8 with roughly equal chances.]

[Better is 24.Kh1= 0.03/23 f6 25.h3 fxe5 *(25...Bc6+ 26.d5±)* 26.Rxg4 Bxg4 27.hxg4]

24...f6? 1.19/21

[He should have started with 24...Nxh2+! and only after 25.Kf2 f6∓ when Black is on top.]

[24...Nxh2+∓ -0.51/21 keeps the upper hand. 25.Kf2 f6]



Once again Black misses his chance, this time to obtain an edge. **25.h3** 0.52/20

[White should try 25.Re2!± 1.19/21]

25...fxe5± 26.Rxg4 Simplifying into a better endgame.

[26.dxe5! Nxe5 27.Qd5! Re8 28.Rf5! Qxc3 29.Rfxe5 Rf8+ 30.Kg1± promised a bigger advantage, but it's impossible to calculate all the variations, while the position of White's king looks vulnerable.]

26...Bxg4 27.hxg4 Rxg4

[27...Qf7+!? 1.01/23 27...Rg8xg4 0.44 deserved attention. 28.Ke2 exd4 29.Qxd4+ Kc7±]

28.dxe5+ Endgame. KQR-KQR

[28.Rxe5!± 0.33/22 28.d4xe5+ 0.73 was stronger. The rest of the game was played in severe time pressure and so it doesn't make sense to analyse it. Grischuk was more fortunate and won the game.]

28...Ke8 29.Qf5 0.06/24

[29.Qf3± 0.79/20 Qf7 30.Ke2]

29...Rg5= 30.Qe6+ Qe7 31.Qc8+

[31.Qxh6? is the wrong capture. Qf7+ 32.Qf6 *(32.Ke2? Rxe5+-+)* 32...Rf5+ 33.Ke2 Rxf6-+]

31...Kf7 1.09/19

[31...Qd8!= 0.01/22 keeps the balance. 32.Qxd8+ *(32.Qxb7 Rf5+ 33.Kg1 Rg5+ 34.Kf1 Rf5+ 35.Kg1 Rg5+ 36.Kf1=)* 32...Kxd8]

32.Re2 White is more active.

[32.Re4 simplifies Rxe5 33.Rxe5 Qxe5 34.Qxb7+ Kg6 35.Qa6+]

32...Kg7 33.e6 0.01/21

[33.Rd2± 0.77/21 Hoping for Rd2-d7. Qf8+ *(33...Rxe5 34.Qg4+ Kh8 35.c4=)* 34.Qxf8+ Kxf8 35.Rd8+ Ke7 36.Rb8]

33...Rf5+! 34.Rf2? -1.89/23

[34.Kg1!= 0.01/25]

34...Kf6? 1.22/22

[34...Rxf2+-+ -1.89/23 35.Kxf2 Qf8+

36.Qxf8+ Kxf8]
35.Qh8+± Kg5 36.Rxf5+ Kxf5 37.Qxh6 KQ-KQ **37...a5?** 2.37/22
[37...b6± 0.84/18]
38.Qh5++- Kxe6 39.Qxa5 Strongly threatening Qa5-b6+. **39...Qh7?** 4.24/23
[39...Kd7 2.12/23 40.Qb4 Qf7+ 41.Ke1 Kc7]
40.Qb6+ Kd5 41.Qb5+ Ke6 42.Qc4+ Ke5 43.Qd4+ Ke6 White is winning. **44.Qe3+ Kf6 45.Qd3 Qh1+ 46.Ke2 Ke6 47.Kd2** The line with 5.Nf3 is interesting and requires further practical tests. What a bad dream for Black.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.46
1-0

C27

□ **Caruana,F.** **2782**
■ **Giri,A.** **2734**
76th Tata Steel Masters (7.3) 19.01.2014
[Mikhalevski, V, MH]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nxe4 It has been a while since we last covered this line. The current game is a good reason to fill the gap. **4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Bb3 Be7** A safe continuation. Giri is not in a sacrificial mood.
[5...Nc6 leads to wild complications after 6.Nb5 g6 7.Qf3 f5 8.Qd5 This move forces Black to give up an exchange, though Black obtains compensation after Qe7 *(8...Qf6* is a reasonable alternative.*)* 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 b6 11.h4 Bb7 and so on, Simmons, M (2200)-Hector, J (2570)/Jersey JCI 2003/[Nigel Davies].]
6.Qxe5
[6.Nf3 is a more popular line. The most accurate is Nc6 *(6...0-0* 0.30/19 6...Nb8-c6 -0.06 Gufeld, E-Tarve, U/ Tallinn, Estonia 1969/[Paul Motwani].*)* 7.Nxe5 g6 8.Qe2 Nd4 9.Qd3 Nxb3 10.axb3 0-0 11.0-0 Bf6! *(11...c6!?* also makes sense, with the idea of 12...Nf5 and 13...d5 and Black is slightly better.*)* 12.Nf3 Shanava, K (2563)-Mchedlishvili, M (2637)/Tbilisi 2013 and now the precise *(12.Re1!?)* 12...b6! 13.Nd5 Bb7!∓ promised Black the advantage.]
6...0-0 7.d4N
[The pseudo-aggressive 7.Nd5? -0.28/18 7.d2-d4 0.09 is met by Re8∓]
[7.Qf4!? has never been played, but it seems to be the most accurate way to play. Nevertheless, the position remains equal.]
[Earlier White played mostly 7.Nge2]
[and 7.Nf3 Nc6 *(7...c6 8.d4 Ne8 9.d5 d6 10.Qf4 Nd7 11.0-0 Nc5 12.Be3 Nxb3 13.axb3 c5 14.b4 h6 15.Rfd1 b6 16.bxc5 bxc5 17.Nd2 f5 18.Qc4 Kh8 19.Nb3 a5 20.Bd2 Bd7 21.Ra3 Bf6 22.Rda1* 5.f3 c6 6.♕d2 b5 (2715)-Novik (2641) British CC Ch 9293 1992 1-0*)* 8.Qf4 Na5 9.0-0 Nxb3 10.axb3 b6 11.Nd5 Re8 12.d3 Bf8 13.Qg4 f6 14.Bd2 Bb7 15.Ne3 Qe7 16.h4 Qe6 17.Qf4 Nf7 18.Nf5 Ne5 19.N3d4 Qf7 20.f3 a6 21.Rae1 d6 22.Ne2 Chapter-Games Chapter 9 Game 6 Nc6 23.Bc3 Ne7 24.Nxe7+ Rxe7 25.Ng3 Rae8 26.Nf5 Rxe1 27.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 28.Bxe1 Qe6 29.Bc3 Bc8 30.g4 h5 31.Kf2 Bd7 32.b4 Be8 33.Bd4 Bg6 34.c4 c5 35.bxc5 dxc5 36.Bc3 b5 37.b3 Shirov,A (2736)-Radjabov,T (2656) Linares 21st 2004 (6) 1-0]

7...Nc6 8.Qf4 Na5!? An interesting attempt to fight for the initiative. Black's idea is to exchange the strong light-squared bishop. **9.Bd5** The most principled continuation. White is trying to keep his bishop.

[After 9.Nf3 Nxb3 10.axb3 b5 11.0-0 Bb7 the chances are roughly equal.]

9...Ne8! This move makes a lot of sense as Black improves the position of his misplaced knight and prepares 10...c6 followed by 11...d5. **10.Bf3! Nc6!** Once again Giri chooses the safest move.

[10...Nf6 11.d5 looks less clear as the knight on a5 remains misplaced, though I wouldn't be surprised if Black isn't worse here either.]

11.Nd5!? An attempt to complicate matters.

[After the quiet 11.Nge2 Nf6 12.0-0 d5= the position is equal.]

11...Bd6

[11...Nb4 12.Nxb4 Bxb4+ 13.c3 Be7 14.d5 yields White some practical chances, though objectively the position remains equal.]

12.Qd2 b6 Since the dark-squared bishop is on d6 Black develops its colleague to the a8-h1 or a6-f1 diagonals. However this move is slightly inaccurate as it allows White to keep his d5-knight.

[Black could have started with 12...Nf6! trying to force an exchange of the knights, as in the game it was avoided by Caruana. 13.Nxf6+ *(*Now after *13.Ne3* Black can develop his light-squared bishop by means of *Re8 14.Ne2 Bf8 15.0-0 d5* with a good position for Black.*)* 13...Qxf6 and after 14.Ne2 b6 and Black is by no means worse.]

13.Ne2 Nf6 14.Ne3! It's clear that Fabiano doesn't want to simplify the position. Now it's not easy to equalise yet. **14...Re8 15.0-0 Bf8** An inaccuracy, which allows White to obtain a slight edge.

[15...Ne4! 16.Qd1

A) 16...Qf6 could have been met by 17.Ng3! 0.07/20 *(17.Nd5±* 0.43/18 *Qf5 18.Ne3)* 17...Bxg3= 18.fxg3 Qxd4 19.Qxd4 Nxd4 20.Nd5! Ba6 21.Rd1± with some complications, something Anish is avoiding.;

B) 16...Ba6! 17.c4 Ng5! And now ...Ng5xf3+ would win. 18.Bg4 *(*or *18.Bd5 Rb8=* with the idea of 19...Nb4.*)* 18...g6 with the ideas of 19...h5 or 19...f5 allows to equalise.]

16.c4!± Now White obtains a strong pawn centre and slightly better chances. **16...g6?!** The Dutch player doesn't feel the danger.

[It seems that Black should have tried to exchange the c4-pawn by means of b5. 16...Rb8! 17.Nc3 a6 18.b3 b5±]

17.b3 Bg7 18.Bb2 Now Black is under serious pressure. His position is passive and it's difficult to find any counterplay.

18...Bb7 19.Rae1

[I prefer the natural 19.Nc3 Rb8 20.Rfe1±]

19...d6

[19...Rb8 20.Nc3 Ne7 21.d5± isn't much fun either.]

20.Nc3 Qd7 With his last two moves Black connected the rooks. **21.Ned5**

[21.h3! would be more unpleasant as White delays exchanges and lets Black make useless moves.]

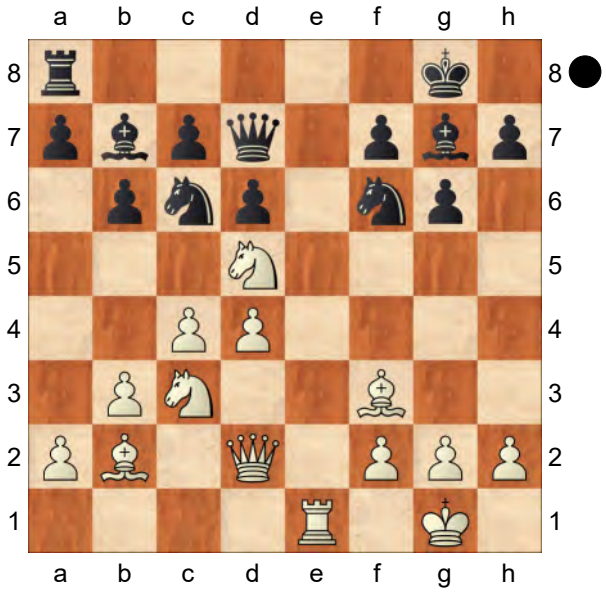
21...Rxe1 1.23/23

[It would be better to trade knights,

though Black is still under some pressure after 21...Nxd5 22.Nxd5 Rab8! 23.Qf4 *(After 23.Bc3 0.41/20 23.Nd5-e3 0.82 Ne7 Black simplifies the position.)* 23...Rxe1 24.Rxe1 Re8 25.Rxe8+ Qxe8 26.g3 Qd8 27.h4±]
[21...Nxd5± 0.62/20 22.Bxd5 *(22.Nxd5 Rab8±)* 22...Na5]

22.Rxe1

[Reject 22.Qxe1?! Nxd5 23.Bxd5 Re8±]



Threatens to win with Nd5xf6+. **22...Re8** 1.30/20

[⌓22...Nxd5 0.90/21 23.Nxd5 a6]

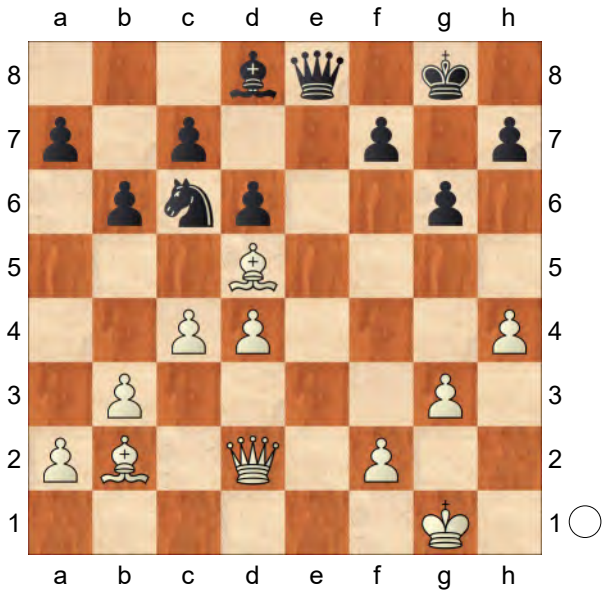
23.Nxf6+± Bxf6 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Nd5 Bd8 26.g3!? White prepares the advance of the h-pawn.

[26.Bc3!± would have been even more accurate, when White's pressure is already very annoying.]

26...Na5 27.h4! Bxd5 Black destroys the strong knight, but his position remains unpleasant. **28.Bxd5 Nc6**

(Diagram)

Black is weak on the light squares **29.h5**



0.84/20 **Ne7 30.Bf3 Nf5** Prevents Qd2-e3. **31.d5!** Caruana is improving his position step by step. Now the long dark diagonal is fully in his hands, while playing ...f6 weakens the g6-pawn. **31...Qf8! 32.Bg4** aiming for Bg4xf5. A strong pair of Bishops.

[It seems that the most accurate would have been 32.Kg2! Qh6 33.Qc2 Ng7 34.hxg6 hxg6 35.b4± with the idea of 36.c5.]

32...Qh6 33.Qe1 0.49/22 Surprisingly, this natural move turns out to be inaccurate.

[Better is 33.Bc3± 0.98/20]

33...Ng7± 34.Qc3 White has more active pieces.

[After 34.hxg6 Qxg6! 35.Bh3 f5 36.Qc3 Kf7 1.27/26 White can't stop 37...Bf6. *(36...f4± 0.60/25)*]

34...Kf8

[34...f5!? deserved serious attention. 35.Bh3 0.14/21 *(35.Bd1± 0.62/20)* 35...Kf7 *(35...gxh5!? 36.Bxf5 Nxf5 37.Qh8+ Kf7 38.Qxd8 h4+-)* 36.hxg6+ hxg6 37.Bf1 Ne8 38.Qe1 Ng7 and once again Black manages to bring his dark-squared bishop to

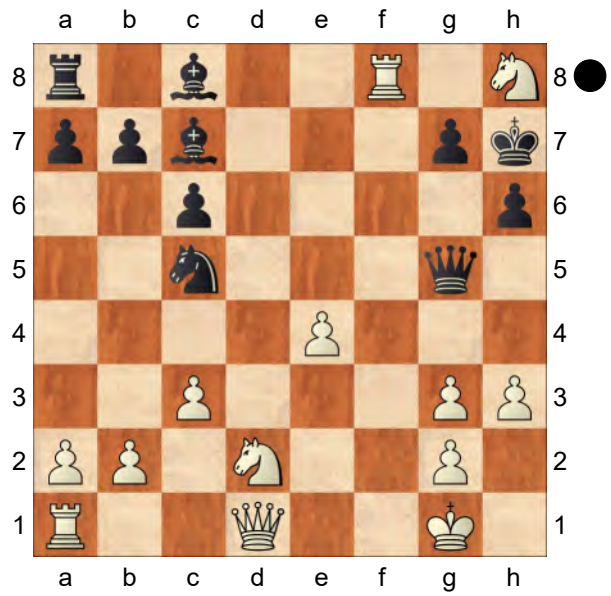
f6.]
35.hxg6 hxg6 36.b4
[or 36.Kg2!? Ne8 37.Bc1 Qg7 0.75/20 *(37...Bg5± 0.36/22* was preferrable. *38.f4 Bf6)* 38.Qc2 Qd4 39.Bh6+ Kg8 40.Bf3 Bf6± and Black is close to equalising.]
36...Ne8 37.Bc1 Bg5 Provoking f4.
38.f4 Bf6 Black takes the long diagonal and now the worst is behind him. **39.Qd3 Qh8 40.Kg2 Bc3 41.a3 a5 42.Bd7** Qd3-e3 would now be deadly.
[42.bxa5! Bxa5 43.f5!± was the last practical chance.]
42...axb4 43.axb4 Bb2 Black trades the queens and fully equalises.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
[43...Bb2 For example, 44.Be3 Qc3 45.Qxc3 *(45.Qe2?* -0.78/23 45.Qd3xc3 0.14 *Nf6∓)* 45...Bxc3 46.Bxe8 Kxe8 47.b5 f5 with a dead draw. It seems that Caruana missed his chances, though his opening setup should present any problems. Black can equalise by means of 12...Nf6!]
½-½

C24
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2850**
■ **Fabiano Caurana** **2800**
Sinquefeld Cup 2014
[Kitty Kat]

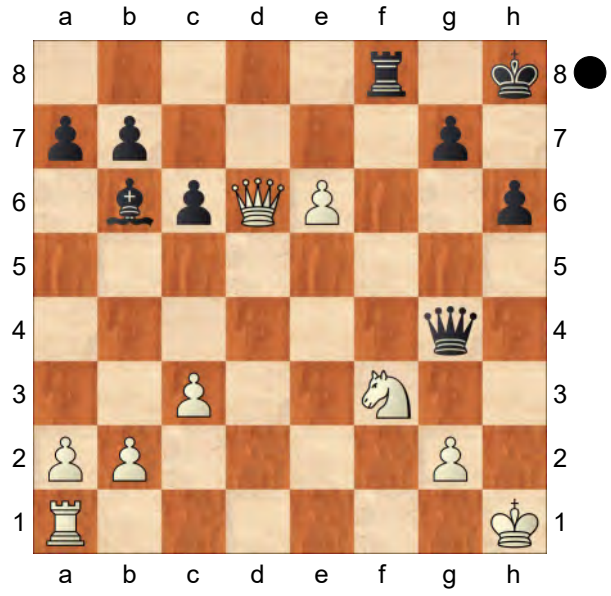
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bg5 dxe4 8.dxe4 h6 9.Bh4 Qe7 The position is equal. **10.Nbd2 Nbd7**
[10...Be6 11.Bxe6 Qxe6 12.Qb3 Qxb3 13.axb3 Nbd7 14.b4 Ke7 15.Kd1 Bc7 16.Re1 a5 17.Bxf6+ Kxf6 18.bxa5 Bxa5 19.Ke2 Bc7 20.Nb3 b5 21.Red1 Ke6 22.Ne1 Bd6 23.f4 Rhc8 24.Rxa8 Rxa8 25.fxe5 Mirzoev,E (2439)-Nikolov,M (2555) Sautron op 18th 2018 (5.2) 1-0]
[10...Bc7 11.Nc4 Nbd7 12.Bc2 Nf8 13.0-0 Ng6 14.Bg3 0-0 15.Re1 Rd8 16.Qe2 Nh5 17.Ne3 Nxg3 18.hxg3 Be6 19.Bb3 Rd7 20.Qc2 Rad8 21.Bxe6 Qxe6 22.Qb3 Qxb3 23.axb3 a6 24.Kf1 f6 25.Red1 Adhiban,B (2551)-Kolbus,D (2225) FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 (3) ½-½]
11.Bg3N Bc7 12.0-0 Nh5 13.h3 Nxg3 14.fxg3 Nc5 -0.01/21
[14...0-0∓ -0.48/18]
15.Bxf7+!= Decoy **15...Kxf7**
[15...Qxf7? 16.Nxe5+-]
16.Nxe5+ -1.33/22 Excellent horsemanship.
[Better is 16.Nh4+∓ -0.54/24 Kg8 17.Ng6]
16...Kg8∓ 17.Ng6 Qg5 18.Rf8+
[18.Nxh8? Bxh3 *(18...Kxh8 19.Rf8+ Kh7 20.e5∓)* 19.Qf3 Be6-+ *(19...Kxh8 20.gxh3 Qxd2 21.Qg2-+; 19...Qxd2? 20.Rf2-+)*]
18...Kh7 19.Nxh8

(Diagram)

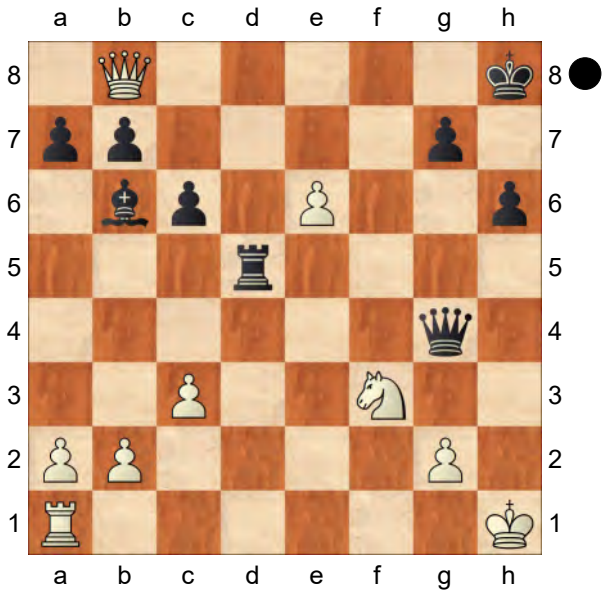
And now e4-e5! would win. **19...Bg4!** Discovered Attack **20.Qf1 Nd3** Deflection. Some like it hot **21.Qxd3**
[21.Rxa8? Qe3+ 22.Kh1 *(22.Kh2? Qxg3+ 23.Kh1 Qh2#)* 22...Nf2+-+]
21...Rxf8 22.hxg4 Qxg4
[And not 22...Rxh8 23.e5+ Qg6 24.Qxg6+ Kxg6 25.Re1+-]
[Much worse is 22...Rd8?! 23.Nf3 Qxg4 *(23...Rxd3 24.Nxg5+ hxg5 25.Nf7=)* 24.Qe3 Kxh8 *(24...Rxh8*



25.Qxa7 Qxe4 26.Qxb7=)
25.Qxa7=]
23.Nf3 -0.96/23
[23.Nb3∓ -0.51/22 might be stronger.]
23...Qxg3 -0.34/21 Black is more active.
[Of course not 23...Rxh8?! 24.e5+ g6 25.Re1∓]
[Black should try 23...Kxh8∓ -0.96/23 24.e5 Qxg3]
24.e5+ Kxh8 25.e6 -1.34/22
[25.Rf1∓ -0.64/22]
25...Bb6+! 26.Kh1 Qg4! 27.Qd6



Rd8 28.Qe5 Rd5 29.Qb8+

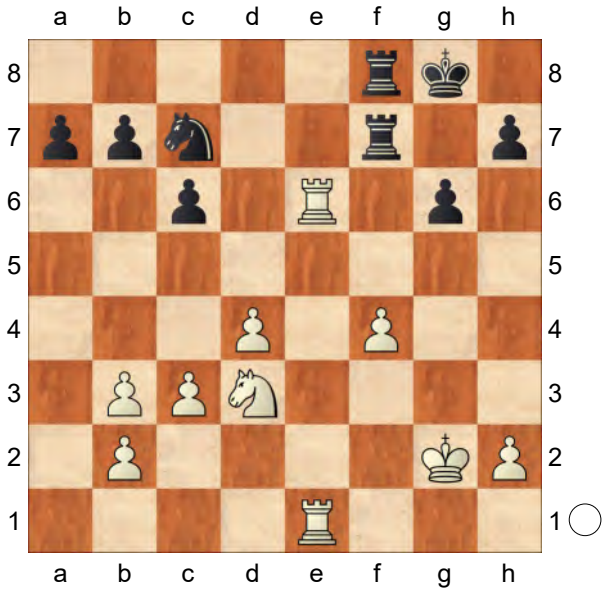


Kh7! 30.e7 Qh5+ 31.Nh2? -16.94/28
White does not recover from this.
[31.Qh2∓ -1.38/24 Qe8 32.g4 Qxe7 33.b4]
31...Rd1+-+ Black is clearly winning.
32.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 33.Nf1 Qxf1+ 34.Kh2 Qg1+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/ Black=0.07 (flawless)
0-1

C24
□ **Karjakin,Sergey** **2785**
■ **Fridman,Daniel** **2653**
Olympiad-40 Istanbul (11.3) 09.09.2012
[Kitty Kat]

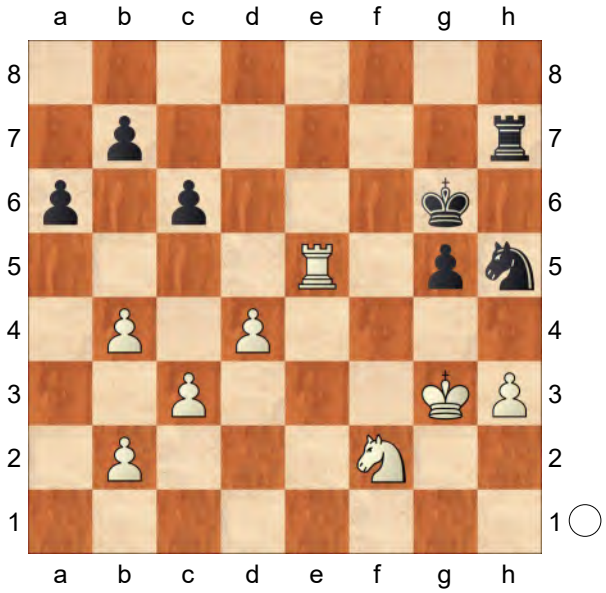
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 0-0 8.Nxe5 The position is equal. **8...Qe7 9.f4 dxe4 10.d4 Nd5 11.0-0 f6 12.Nc4 Kh8 13.Nc3 Nxc3 14.Qxc3 f5 15.Ne5** Ne5-g6+! would kill now.
15...Be6 16.Qh3 Kg8 1.29/22
[16...Rf6= 0.24/19]

17.g4 0.53/21
[17.Rae1± 1.29/22]
17...fxg4!± 18.Qxg4 Bxb3 19.axb3 Na6 20.Rae1 Nc7
[But not 20...Nb4 21.c4± *(21.Rxe4 Nd5±)*]
21.Rxe4 Ne8N 22.Qd7 White has more active pieces. **22...Qxd7 23.Nxd7 Rf7 24.Ne5 Re7 25.Ree1 Nd6 26.Nd3 Rf7 27.c3 Raf8 28.Re6 Nb5 29.Rfe1 g6 30.Kg2 Nc7**

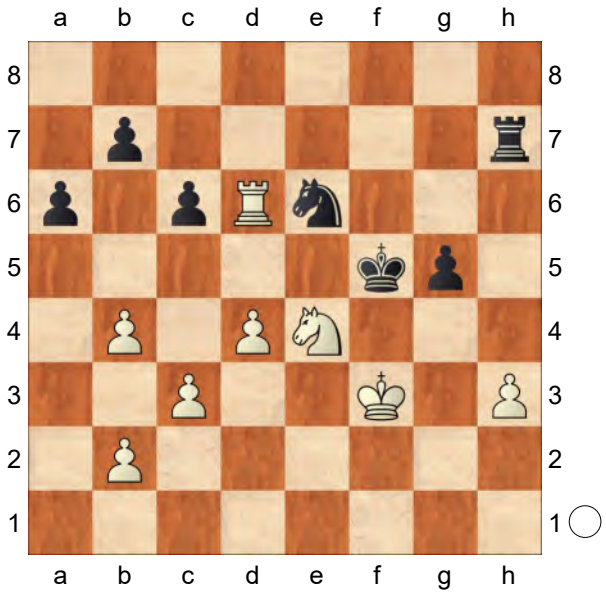


31.Re7 Nd5 32.Rxf7 Rxf7+- Endgame. KRN-KRN **33.Re8+ Kg7 34.Kg3 Nf6 35.Rb8 Ne4+ 36.Kg2 Kh6 37.b4 Kh5 38.Re8 Nd6 39.Re3** 1.30/22
[39.Rd8+- 1.88/21 Nc4 40.Ne5 Nxe5 41.fxe5]
39...Nf5± 40.Re5 a6 41.h3 h6 42.Nf2 0.86/24
[⌓42.Re8 1.31/23]
42...g5 43.fxg5 0.59/26
[43.Nd3± 1.02/23]
43...Nh4+± 44.Kf1 hxg5 45.Re8 Ng6 1.00/24
[45...Nf3± 0.64/25]
46.Re3 Nf4 47.Kg1 Nd5 0.90/22
[Better is 47...Kh4± 0.31/22]

48.Re8± Nf4 Dodges Nf2-d3 **49.Kh2 Kg6 50.Re5 Rh7 51.Kg3 Nh5+**



52.Kg4! Nf6+ 53.Kf3 Nd5 54.Re6+ Kf5 55.Rd6 Nf2-h1 is the strong threat. **55...Nf4** 2.41/22 A mistake that costs the game.
[55...Nf6± 1.04/23]
56.Ne4+- Ne6? 6.48/24
[56...Rxh3+ 2.18/24 57.Ng3+ Rxg3+ 58.Kxg3 Nd3]



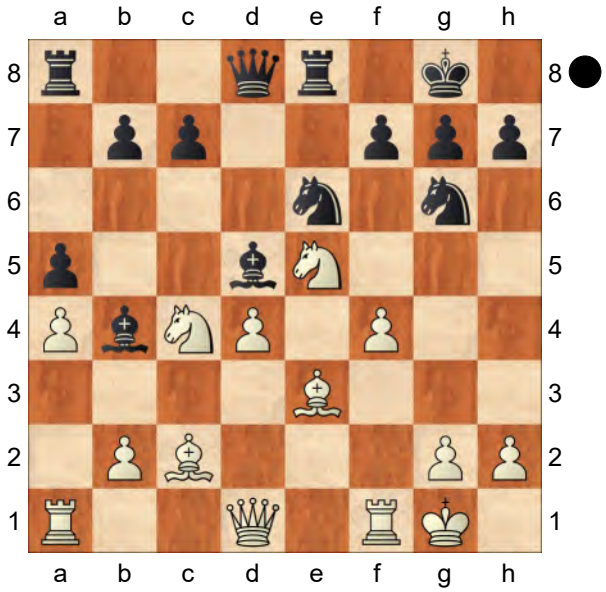
57.Rxe6! Remove Defender, Decoy. White is clearly winning. **57...Rxh3+**

58.Kg2 Re3 59.Re5+ Kf4 60.Nc5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.23 (precise)
1-0

C54

□ **Hoffmann,Paul** **2378**
■ **Adams,Michael** **2670**
Bundesliga 2324 (7.1) 03.02.2024
[Kitty Kat]

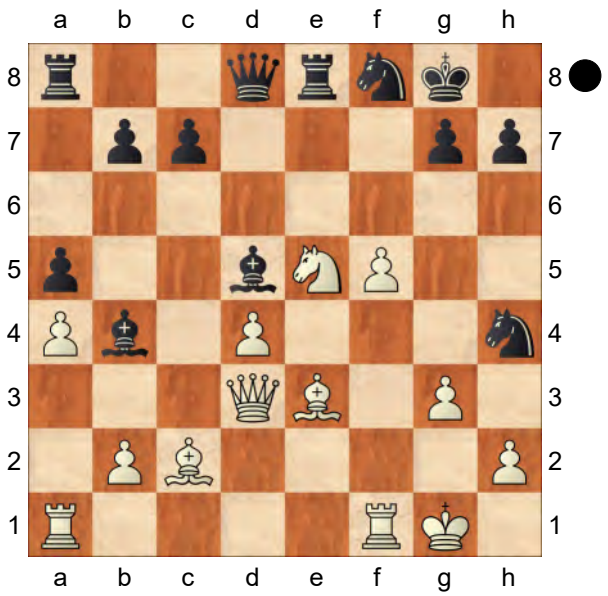
C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bc5N
[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 19.Raxd1 Deschamps,Q (2632)-Lopez Ramirez,D (2436) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (8) 1-0 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 axb4 21.Re7 Rc8 22.a5 Kf8 23.Re4 Na8 24.Rd7 Re8 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.Rxg7 h5 Chigaev,M (2632)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2737) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Feb Late blitz 2023 (5) 0-1]
5.c3 d6 6.Bb3 a5 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.0-0 Be6 The position is equal. **9.a4 d5!?** Leaves trodden paths.Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade. **10.exd5 Bxd5 11.Nc4 Re8 12.Be3N**
[Vorgänger: 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 g5 14.Bg3 e4 15.dxe4 Rxe4 16.Ncd2 And now Bb3xd5 would win. Re7 17.Qc2 Qd7 Dodges Qc2-f5 18.Rad1 Trofimov,V (2403)-Krutous,A (2342) EU-ch 2021 sf16 email ½-½]
12...Nd7 0.53/18
[12...Bxe3= -0.15/23 13.Nxe3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qxd3]
13.d4 -0.30/23
[White should play 13.Nxa5!± 0.53/18 Bxb3 14.Nxb3 Bxe3 15.fxe3]
13...exd4= 14.cxd4 Bb4 15.Ne1 Nf8 Black has more active pieces. **16.Nd3 Ne6 17.Nde5 Ne7 18.Bc2** Bc2xh7+! is the strong threat. **18...Ng6 19.f4** -1.63/21
[19.Qh5∓ -0.61/20]



19...Nef8 -0.76/19
[19...f6!-+ -1.63/21 20.Nxg6 Bxc4]
20.Qd3 f6 21.f5! Nh4
[21...Nxe5 22.dxe5 fxe5 23.Rad1=]
22.g3 -2.55/23
[22.Rf2!∓ -0.66/16]
22...fxe5-+ 23.Nxe5

(Diagram)

Rxe5! Remove Defender **24.dxe5 Nf3+ 25.Rxf3 Bxf3 26.Bb3+** -1.12/19
[26.Qc4+-+ -2.40/18 Bd5 27.Qb5]
26...Kh8∓ 27.Qc4 Nd7 28.Qf4 -2.63/19
[28.f6∓ -1.10/21 was the only defense. Qf8 *(28...Nxe5 29.fxg7+ Kxg7 30.Bd4∓; 28...gxf6 29.exf6*



Nxf6 30.Bd4∓) 29.Qxc7]

28...Bc6-+ 29.Rd1 Qe7 30.f6 gxf6

[30...Qxe5? 31.fxg7+ *(31.Rxd7 Qxf6 32.Qxf6 gxf6=)* 31...Qxg7 32.Rxd7 Bxd7 33.Bd4+-]

31.Rxd7 Qxd7

[31...Bxd7 32.exf6 Qf8 *(32...Qd6 33.Qg5)* 33.f7±]

32.exf6 aiming for f6-f7. **32...Qd3** (-> ...Qd3-b1+). Black is clearly winning.

[32...Bxa4? loses. 33.f7 Bf8 34.Bd4++- *(34.Bxa4 Qe7=; 34.Bxa4 Qe7=)*]

[32...Qh3 33.Qf2 Rd8 34.f7]

33.f7 Qb1+

[And not 33...Qxb3 34.Qf6#]

34.Bc1 Bc5+

Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.12 (very precise)

0-1

C28

□ **Psyk,Radoslaw** **2417**

■ **Royal,Shreyas** **2427**

Przeworsk (6) 01.06.2023

[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d3 Na5 5.Bb3 Nxb3 6.axb3 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Qh5 Nb4 9.Qxe5+ Be7 10.Qe2 0-0 Black has compensation.

11.Qd1N

[11.Nf3 Re8 12.0-0 Bg4 E1) 1.e4 e5 Without 2.Nf3 –-Bishop's Opening 2. Bc4 –]

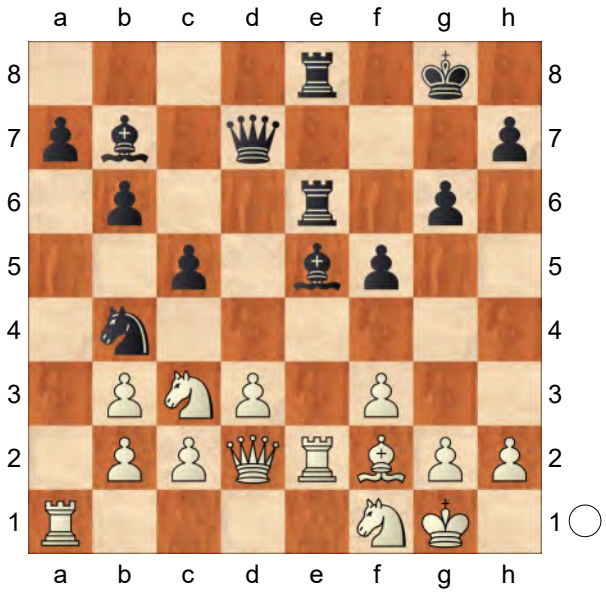
11...b6 12.Nge2 Bb7 13.0-0 c5 14.Be3 Qd7 15.Qd2 Bf6 16.Ng3 Rfe8 17.Rfe1 Be5 18.f3 f5 19.Bf2

[19.Re2!?]

19...g6 0.03/17

[19...Nc6∓ -0.34/17 is more appropriate.]

20.Re2 Re6 21.Nf1 Rae8



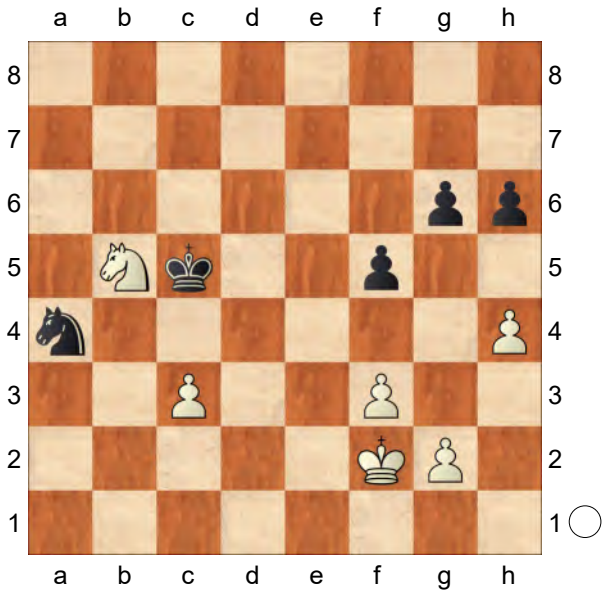
And now ...Be5xc3 would win. **22.Rae1! Nc6 23.Bg3 Bd4+** This pair of bishops is nice. **24.Kh1 Bf6 25.Nb5** -0.64/21

[White should play 25.Rxe6= 0.15/18 Rxe6 26.Rxe6 Qxe6 27.f4]

25...Rxe2
[25...Bxb2 26.Rxe6 Rxe6 27.Rxe6 Qxe6 28.c3 Qxb3 29.Qe2+-]
26.Rxe2 Rxe2
[26...Bxb2? 27.Rxe8+ Qxe8 28.Nd6+-]
27.Qxe2 Bxb2 28.c3 Ba6 29.Qxb2 -0.61/22
[29.Nxa7= -0.24/19 feels stronger. Nxa7 *(29...Qxd3? 30.Qe6+ Kg7 31.h3+-; 29...Bxc3 30.Nxc6 Qxc6 31.b4∓; 29...Bxd3 30.Qxb2 Nxa7 31.Ne3±)* 30.Qxb2]
29...Qxd3∓
[29...Bxb5 30.c4 Qxd3 31.Qa1∓]
30.Nd2 Bxb5
[30...Qxb5?! 31.c4 Qa5 32.Nf1±]
31.h3 White is weak on the light squares
31...Ba6 -0.01/21
[31...Kf7∓ -0.54/18]
32.Bf4 Bc8 33.b4 c4 34.b5 Nd8 35.Qa2 Ne6 36.Be5 Bd7 0.56/22
[Black should try 36...Qd5= -0.01/21 37.Bb8 Qxb5]
37.Nxc4± Qd5
[37...Bxb5? perishes. 38.Nxb6 Kf7 39.Qxa7+ Ke8 40.Qxh7+-]
38.Qxa7 Black must now prevent Qa7-b8+. **38...Bxb5 39.Qb8+**
[39.Nxb6? is the wrong capture. Qxe5 40.Qe7 Qe2-+]
39...Qd8 40.Nxb6 Qxb8 41.Bxb8 Endgame. KBN-KBN **41...Nc5 42.Nd5 Kf7 43.Kg1 Na4 44.Be5** 0.03/23
[44.Kf2± 0.39/19]
44...Ke6= 45.Nc7+ Kxe5 46.Nxb5 KN-KN **46...Kd5 47.Kf2 h6 48.h4 Kc5**

(Diagram)

49.h5! gxh5
[49...Kxb5? too greedy. 50.hxg6 Nxc3 51.g7+-]



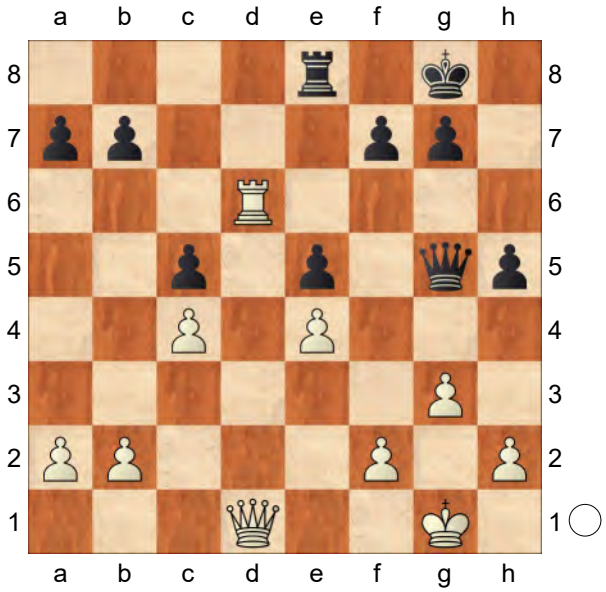
50.Nd4 Nxc3 51.Nxf5 Kd5! 52.Ng7 h4 53.Nf5 Ke5 54.Nxh4 Kf4 55.g3+ Kg5 56.Ke3 Kf6 57.f4 h5 The position is equal. **58.Ng2 Nb5 59.Ke4 Nd6+ 60.Kf3 Kf5 61.Ne3+ Ke6 62.Kg2 Kf6 63.Kh3 Kg7 64.Kg2 Kf6 65.Kf3 Ke6 66.Ng2 Nf5 67.Nh4 Kf6 68.Kg2** Threatens to win with Nh4xf5. **68...Nd6 69.Nf3 Nf5 70.Kf2 Nd6 71.Nd4 Ne4+ 72.Kf3 Nd2+ 73.Kg2 Ne4 74.Kf3 Nd6 75.Ke3 Nc4+ 76.Ke2 Nd6 77.Kf3 Nf5 78.Ne2 Nd6 79.Nc3 Kf5** Prevents Nc3-e4. **80.Nd5 Nc4 81.Ne7+ Kf6 82.Nc6 Nd6 83.Nb4 Kf5 84.Nd5 Nc4 85.Ne7+ Kf6 86.Nc6 Nd6 87.Nd4 Nf5 88.Nc2 Nd6 89.Ne3 Nf5 90.Ng2 Nd6 91.Nh4 Nf5 92.Kf2** Nh4xf5 is the strong threat. **92...Nd6 93.Ke3 Nc4+ 94.Kf3 Nd2+ 95.Kg2 Ne4 96.Nf3 Nd6 97.Nd4 Kg6 98.Kh3 Kf6 99.Kh2 Kf7 100.Kg2 Kg6 101.Nf3 Kf5 102.Kh3 Kg6 103.Ne5+ Kf6 104.Nd7+ Ke7 105.Kh4 Nf5+ 106.Kg5 Nxg3 107.Nf6 Ke6 108.Nxh5 Nxh5 109.f5+ Ke5 110.Kxh5** White wants to mate with Kh5-g6. **110...Kxf5**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08

(flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
½-½

C28

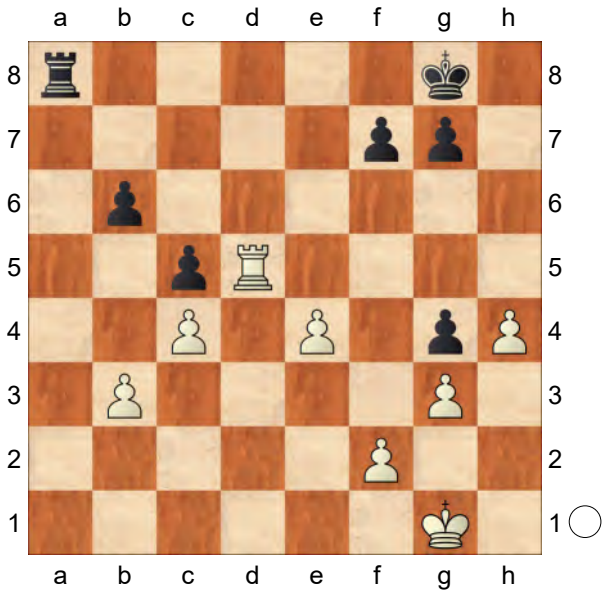
□ **Mueller,Kars** **2525**
■ **Nyback,T** **2635**
Schachbundesliga 2010-11 (1) 09.10.10
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d3 Bb4 5.Nf3
[5.Nge2 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Be6 8.Bxd5 Bxd5 9.f4 0-0 10.f5 Bxc3 11.bxc3 f6 12.Ng3 Qd7 13.Qg4 Kh8 14.Be3 b5 15.a4 a6 16.Rfb1 Ne7 17.Bc5 Rfb8 18.axb5 axb5 19.Rxa8 Rxa8 7.g4 ♗b4 8.♗d2 ♕e7 (2110)-Taylor,R (1605) Yerevan (zt) 33/715 1982 (8) 1-0]
5...d6 6.0-0 Na5
[6...Bxc3 7.bxc3 Na5 8.Bb3 h6 9.h3 Qe7 10.Nh2 Nxb3 11.axb3 g5 Panov Botvinnik Attack (2784)-Grube,J (2764) Breslau]
7.Nd5N
[7.Bb3 Nxb3 8.axb3 h6 9.Be3 Be6 10.Ne2 Nd7 11.d4 0-0 12.h3 exd4 13.Nfxd4 Bc5 14.Nf4 Re8 15.Ndxe6 fxe6 16.Bxc5 Nxc5 17.Qg4 Qg5 18.Rfe1 a5 19.Qxg5 hxg5 20.Nd3 Nxd3 21.cxd3 Ra6 Li,E-11.♗e3 ♖e8 12.♗d3 ♘b4 2/539 Palma de Mallorca 1966 0-1]
7...Nxc4 8.dxc4 Nxd5 The position is equal. **9.Qxd5** Strongly threatening Qd5-b5+. **9...0-0 10.Be3 c6**
[10...Qe7 looks sharper. 11.a3 c6 12.Bg5 Qc7]
11.Qd3 Ba5 12.Rad1 Bc7! 13.c5↑ White has the initiative. **13...dxc5** Hoping for ...Qd8xd3. **14.Qa3 Qf6 15.Bxc5 Re8 16.Bd6 Bxd6 17.Rxd6 Qe7 18.Rfd1 Bg4 19.Qd3** 0.29/18
[19.c4!± 0.71/19]
19...Rac8 0.85/20
[19...Bxf3= 0.29/18 keeps the balance. 20.Qxf3 Rad8]
20.c4± c5 1.15/21
[Better is 20...b6 0.73/18]
21.Rd2 0.78/19
[White should try 21.h3 1.15/21 Be6 22.Nxe5 Bxh3 23.Qxh3 *(23.Nxf7 Bxg2 24.Nh6+ gxh6=)* 23...Qxe5 24.f3 Remove Defender, Decoy]
21...Bxf3 22.Qxf3 Rcd8 Prevents Rd6-d7 **23.Qd1** White is much more active. **23...Rxd6 24.Rxd6** Endgame. KQR-KQR **24...Qg5 25.g3** h2-h4 would now be deadly. **25...h5**



26.h4! Qg4 27.Qxg4 hxg4 KR-KR **28.Rd7 Rb8 29.b3 a5 30.Rd5 b6 31.Rxe5 a4 32.Rd5**
[But not 32.bxa4 Ra8±]
32...axb3 1.73/23
[32...b5± 1.07/21 was worth a try.]
33.axb3+- Ra8

(Diagram)

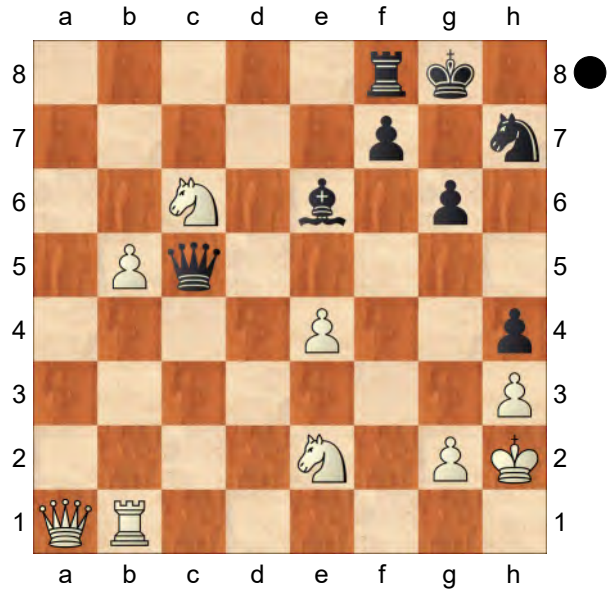


34.Rd6! b5 35.cxb5 Black must now prevent b5-b6. **35...Ra5 36.Rb6 Ra1+ 37.Kg2** Rb6-a6 is the strong threat. **37...Re1?** 5.07/26
[37...Ra5 2.71/27 38.Kf1 Ra3]
38.Rb8+ Kh7 39.Re8 Rb1 40.Re5 Rxb3 41.Rxc5 f6 4.33/26
[41...g6 2.81/24 was called for. 42.h5 gxh5]
42.Kf1 Rb2 43.e5
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.20 (precise)
1-0

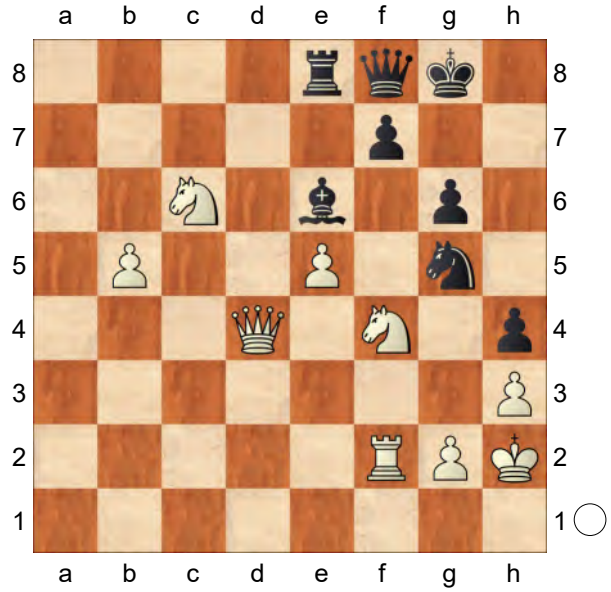
C50
□ **Sheng,Joshua 2463**
■ **Jiang,Lucas 2318**
San Francisco 1000 GM Memorial Day (2)
[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Nf3 d6
[5...h6 6.h3 a6 7.a4 d6 8.Be3 Bxe3 9.fxe3 Be6 10.b3 0-0 11.0-0 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Qd2 Nxc3 14.Qxc3 Qd6 15.Nd2 f5 16.Bxe6+ Qxe6 17.Qc4 Qxc4 18.bxc4 e4 19.d4 f4 20.Rxf4 Molina,R (2865)-4.♘f3 g6 5.♘bd2 (2727) USA-ch Seniors 2023 ½-½]
6.0-0
[6.h3 Bb6 7.0-0 g5 8.Be3 g4 9.hxg4 Bxg4 10.Ne2 Bxf3 11.gxf3 Rg8+ 12.Kh1 Nxe4 13.Ng3 Qh4+ 14.Kg2 Rxg3+ 15.fxg3 Qxg3+ 16.Kh1 Qh3+ 17.Kg1 Bxe3+ 18.Rf2 Bxf2# 3) Castle-Kloos,H Opening Compass for Black and White 2023 0-1]
6...Na5N
[6...Bg4 7.Bb5 0-0 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Na4 Bb6 10.h3 Bd7 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Nxb6 cxb6 14.d4 Rad8 15.Qd3 c5 16.c3 Bc6 17.d5 Bd7 18.a4 Qe7 19.a5 b5 20.b4 Rc8 21.Nd2 7.♗b3 ♘bd7 8.0-0-7.00 e5 8.♕c2 c6_55212 Danmark 12/497 1971 (5) ½-½]
7.Bb5+ -0.42/19
[7.Bg5= 0.02/17 might be stronger.]
7...c6∓ 8.Ba4 b5 Black is slightly better. **9.Bb3 Nxb3 10.axb3 h6 11.Be3 Bxe3 12.fxe3 0-0 13.Qe1 g6** 0.18/18
[13...a5 -0.27/17 was preferrable.]
14.b4= Kg7 15.Ne2 Qb6 16.Ng3 c5 17.bxc5 Qxc5 18.c3 -0.56/20
[18.Qd2= -0.07/18 deserves consideration.]
18...a5∓ 19.h3 Nh7 20.b4 Qc7 21.bxa5 Rxa5 22.Rxa5 Qxa5 23.Qa1 Qb6 24.d4 Bd7 -0.24/19
[24...Be6∓ -0.72/19]
25.dxe5 Qxe3+ 0.44/22
[25...dxe5∓ -0.40/21 26.Nxe5 Be6]
26.Kh2± dxe5 27.Nxe5 Be6 28.c4 Kg8 1.34/21
[28...f6± 0.50/21]
29.cxb5± Qc5 30.Rb1 h5 31.Nc6→

White attacks with force. **31...h4** 2.30/21
[31...Re8± 1.60/19]
32.Ne2+-



Qa1-d4 would now be deadly. **32...Re8**
33.Qd4 Qh5 4.65/22
[33...Qc4 3.05/21 keeps fighting.]
34.Rb2 White is clearly winning.
34...Ng5 35.Nf4 A dynamic duo of knights. **35...Qh6 36.Rf2** Against Ng5-f3+ **36...Qg7 37.e5 Qf8**



38.Nxg6! Pin, Discovered Attack, Double Attack.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.35
1-0

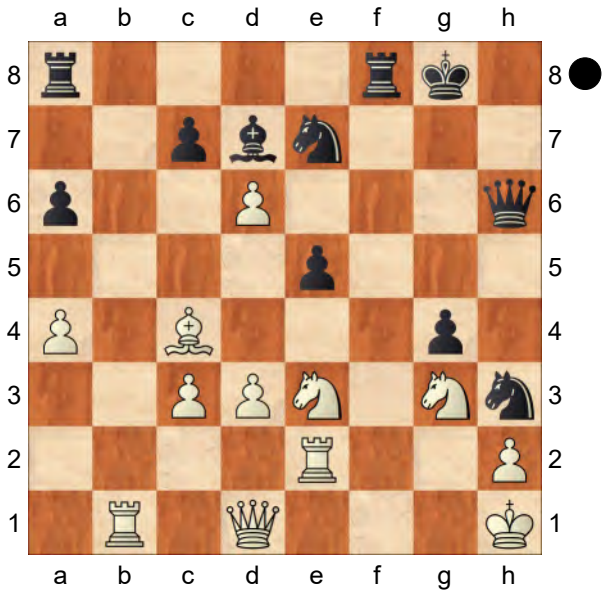
C54
□ **Spasov,Vasil** **2481**
■ **Jocev,Milan** **2338**
Pozarevac Rudar GM2 11 (4.2) 12.11.23
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 d6 7.c3 a6 8.a4 Ba7 9.Nbd2 Qe7 10.0-0 The position is equal. **10...g5 11.Bg3 Nd7**
[11...Rg8 12.b4 Bg4 13.b5 Nd8 14.d4 a5 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Bxe5 Ne6 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Bd4 Bxd4 19.cxd4 0-0-0 20.Qc2 Bxf3 21.Nxf3 g4 22.Nd2 Rxd4 23.Rfc1 b6 24.Nc4 Qc5 25.e5 Ne4 26.Qb3 6.♘a3 cd4 7. cd4 ♗d7 (2718)-Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2741) 153/100 Chicago 2022 (6) 1-0]
12.b4 Nf8 13.Kh1N
[13.b5 Na5 14.Bd5 *(14.bxa6 bxa6 15.Bd5 Rb8 16.Rb1 c6 17.Nc4 Rxb1 18.Qxb1 Nxc4 19.Bxc6+ Nd7 20.dxc4 0-0* Italian,S-Giuoco Pianissimo,6*)* 14...h5 15.h4 g4 16.Nh2 Ng6 17.Kh1 Be6 18.bxa6 *(18.d4 Bxd5 19.exd5 f5* 5.Bg5 #17 Lifetime Repertoires: Gustafsson's*)* 18...Bxd5 19.exd5 f5 Italian 5. Nc3 & 5. Bg5-Bg5]
13...Ng6 14.Ne1 h5 ...h5-h4 would now be deadly. **15.f3! h4↑** White is under pressure. **16.Bf2 Bxf2 17.Rxf2 Nf4** 0.32/23
[17...Qf6= -0.05/20]
18.Nc2 Qf6 19.Ne3 Ne7 0.42/19
[19...a5= 0.02/20]

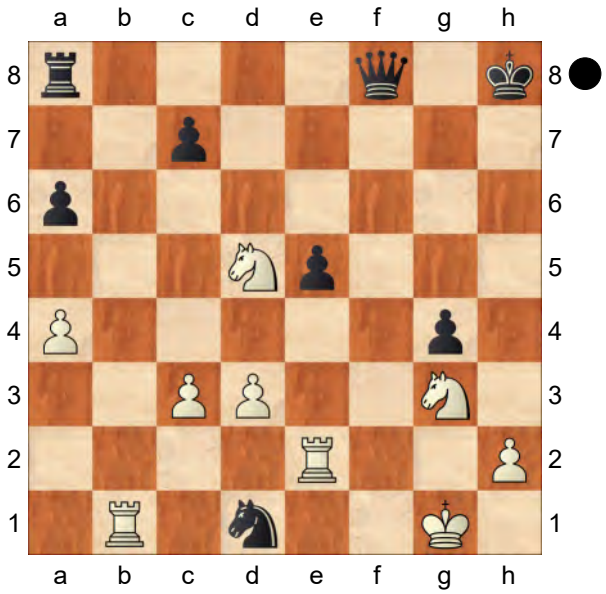
20.Ng4 -0.38/18
[20.Nb3± 0.42/19]
20...Qg7∓ 21.Nf1 -0.76/22
[21.Ne3∓ -0.38/19]
21...d5 -0.40/21
[21...f5∓ -0.76/22 22.Nge3 Bd7]
22.exd5 f5 0.06/20 Repels h2-h3
[22...Bxg4∓ -0.42/22 23.fxg4 Nexd5]
23.Nge3= g4 Hoping for ...g4-g3.
24.fxg4 fxg4 25.g3 -0.65/22
[25.b5!= 0.02/22]
25...hxg3 -0.03/18
[25...Nh3∓ -0.65/22 26.Rg2 Qf6]
26.Nxg3 Bd7 27.b5 Qh6 0.70/22
[27...Nh3= 0.00/20 28.Rf1 Kd8]
28.bxa6 0.08/19
[White should play 28.Nxg4± 0.70/22 Qh4 29.Ne4 *(29.Nxe5 Qxg3 30.Qf3 Qxf3+ 31.Rxf3 Nfg6∓)* 29...axb5 *(29...Bxg4? 30.Qxg4 Nexd5 31.Qf3+-)* 30.Bxb5 *(30.Nxe5? bxc4 31.Nxd7 Kxd7-+; 30.axb5 Rxa1* Pin *31.Ngf6+ Kd8±)* 30...Bxb5 31.axb5 Rxa1 32.Qxa1]
28...bxa6? 2.03/21
[28...Nh3= 0.08/19 29.Re2 *(29.axb7? Nxf2+ 30.Kg1 Qxh2+ 31.Kf1 Rb8-+)* 29...bxa6]
29.Rb1? 0.00/19
[White has to play 29.Nxg4+- 2.03/21 Qg7 30.Ne4]
29...Nh3 Some like it hot **30.Re2 0-0?** 2.72/21
[30...Ng6= 0.00/19 and Black stays safe.]
31.d6++-

(Diagram)

Discovered Attack (Check) **31...Kh8**
32.dxe7 Nf2+ 33.Kg1 Nh3+ 3.68/21
[33...Nxd1 2.60/21 might work better. 34.exf8B *(34.exf8Q+ Rxf8 35.Nxd1 Bxa4+-)* 34...Rxf8 35.Nxd1 Discovered Attack *(35.Rxd1 Kg7+-)* 35...Qd6]
34.Kh1 1.57/17
[34.Kg2+- 3.68/21 Rf3 35.Nd5]
34...Nf2+± 35.Kg2? -0.10/20
[35.Rxf2 Rxf2 36.Ng2 *(36.Nxg4 Bxg4 37.Qg1 Bf3+)* 36...Bc6+-]
[35.Kg1+- 2.45/21 Nxd1 36.exf8B *(36.exf8Q+ Rxf8 37.Rxd1 Bc8+-)* 36...Rxf8 37.Nxd1 *(37.Rxd1 Qb6+-)*]
35...Bc6+!= 36.Bd5 Bxd5+! 37.Nxd5 Excellent horsemanship. **37...Nxd1**
38.exf8Q+ -0.86/21
[38.Rxd1∓ -0.42/23 might be stronger. Rf7 39.Rxe5 Rf2+ Decoy *(39...Re8? 40.Rh5+-)* 40.Kxf2 Qxh2+ 41.Kf1 *(41.Ke3? Qxg3+ 42.Ke4 Qf3+ 43.Kd4 Qxd1-+)* 41...Qh3+ 42.Kf2 Qh2+ 43.Kf1 *(43.Ke3? Qxg3+ 44.Ke4 Qf3+ 45.Kd4 Qxd1-+)* 43...Qh3+ 44.Kf2 Qh2+]
38...Qxf8∓ 39.Kg1? -4.00/23
[39.Rxd1∓ -1.14/21 Qf3+ 40.Kg1 Qxd5 41.Rf1]



(Diagram)



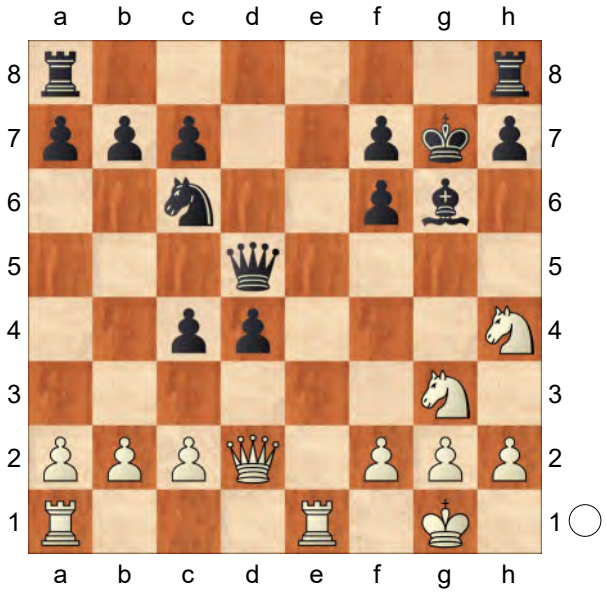
39...Nxc3! Decoy **40.Nxc3 Qc5+ 41.Kg2 Qxc3 42.Rf1** -3.32/21
[⌓42.Rbe1 -2.12/17]
42...Rb8-+ ...Rb8-b2! is the strong threat.
[42...Qxd3 43.Rxe5 Rb8 44.Rf2-+]
43.Ref2 -4.22/19
[43.Rff2 -2.95/19 was called for.]
43...Qc6+ -2.28/21
[Don't take 43...Qxd3 44.h3-+]
[⌓43...Rb2 -4.22/19 44.Ne4 Rxf2+ *(44...Qxd3? 45.Rxb2 Qxe4+ 46.Kg3∓)* 45.Nxf2 c5]
44.Ne4 Qh6
Weighted Error Value: White=0.63/ Black=0.41
[Less strong is 44...Qxa4 45.Rf5=]
0-1

C56

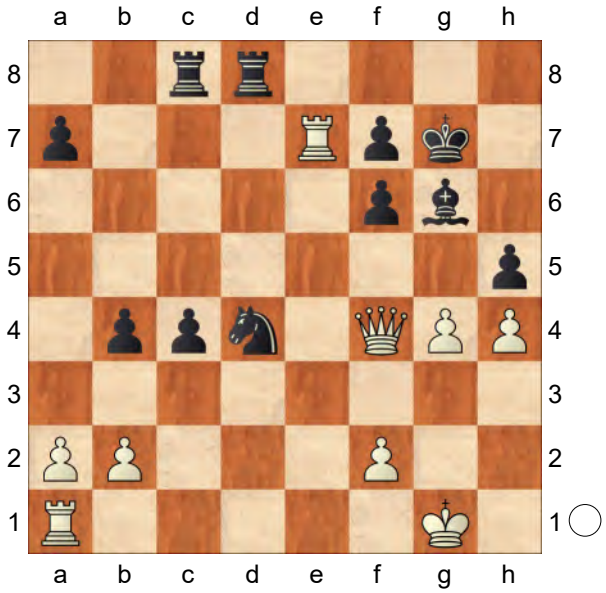
□ **Krishna Teja,N** **2349**
■ **Garifullina,Leya** **2422**
Pozarevac Rudar GM 02 (6) 12.02.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C56: Two Knights: 4 d4 exd4 5 0-0 Nxe4
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nf3 Nc6N
[4...Nxe4 5.Qxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 *(6.Bg5 Be7 7.Nc3 c6 8.0-0-0 d5 9.Rhe1 0-0 10.Qh4 Nbd7 11.Bd3 g6 12.Re2 Re8 13.Rde1 Ne4 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Rxe4 f6 16.Bc4+ Kg7 17.Qxh7+ Kxh7 18.Rh4+ Kg7 19.Bh6+ Kh7 20.Bf8#* C 24/01 2000 *)* 6...Nc6 7.Qh4 Bb4 8.0-0 Bxc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.Bg5 C 24/01 2000]
[4...Bc5 5.0-0 *(5.e5 d5 6.exf6 dxc4 7.Qe2+ Be6 8.fxg7 Rg8 9.Ng5 d3 10.Nxe6 dxe2 11.Nxd8 Kxd8 12.Bg5+ Kc8 13.Bf6 Nd7 14.Bc3 b5 15.a3 f6 16.Kxe2 Rxg7 17.g3 Kb7 18.Re1 Re8+ 19.Kf1 Rge7* Pepe,M-Ude,H 32/493 London 1980 0-1 *)* 5...d6 6.Bg5 Bg4 7.Qd3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nbd7 9.Qb3 Ne5 10.Be2 h6 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Kh1 Qc8 13.Bh5 Rg8 14.f4 Ng6 15.Nd2 Bb6 16.e5 Qf5 17.g4 Qd7 18.e6 Qc6+ 19.Nf3 Felber,J (2008)-Tavares,J (1829) Nassau-ch 2009 (9) 1-0]
5.0-0 Bc5 6.e5 d5 7.exf6 dxc4 8.Re1+
[8.fxg7!? Rg8□ 9.Re1+ Be7 10.Bg5±]
8...Kf8 9.Bg5 0.01/18
[9.Nbd2± 0.44/19 might be stronger.]
9...gxf6= 10.Bh6+ Kg8 The position is equal. **11.Nc3** -0.51/20 **Bf8!∓ 12.Bxf8 Kxf8 13.Ne4** -0.74/19
[13.Nb5= -0.30/19]
13...Bf5 -0.30/20
[13...f5!∓ -0.74/19 14.Neg5 h6]
14.Qd2 Kg7 Prevents Qd2-h6+. **15.Nh4 Bg6 16.Ng3 Qd5** 1.98/23
[16...Qd7∓ -0.80/19 and life is bright. 17.Qf4 Rhe8 *(17...Bxc2 18.Nh5+* Deflection, Double Attack *Kg8 19.Qh6 Bg6 20.Nxf6#)* 18.Nhf5+

Bxf5 19.Nxf5+ Kh8]



Prevents Ng3-h5+. **17.Nhf5+!+- Qxf5**
[17...Bxf5? 18.Nh5+ Kg6 19.Nf4+ Kg7 20.Nxd5+-]
[17...Kg8? 18.Qh6+-]
18.Nxf5+ Bxf5 19.c3 Rhd8 20.Qf4 Bc2 2.99/20
[⌓20...Bg6 1.99/18 21.cxd4 *(21.Qxc7 d3+-)* 21...Nxd4]
21.cxd4
[21.Qxc7 d3±]
21...Nxd4 22.Qxc7 Bg6 23.Rad1
[23.Qxb7 Nc2 24.Qa6 Rab8±]
23...b5 24.h4 Hoping for h4-h5!
24...Bc2? 4.44/21
[24...h5 2.75/20 is a better defense. 25.Qc5 Ne2+ 26.Kh2 *(26.Rxe2 Rxd1+ 27.Kh2 a6±)* 26...Rd3 27.Rxd3 cxd3 28.Qxb5 Rc8]
25.Ra1 2.65/20
[⌓25.Qg3+ 4.44/21 Kf8 26.Rxd4 Rxd4 27.Qf3 *(27.Qc3 Re4+-)*]
25...Bg6 26.Re7 Rac8 27.Qf4
[27.Qxa7?! Nc6 28.Qc5 Nxe7 29.Qxe7 Rd2±]
27...b4 28.g4 Threatens to win with h4-h5!
[28.Rxa7? Ne2+ 29.Kh2 Nxf4-+]
28...h5 1.91/18
[28...h6± 1.38/18 was necessary.]



29.g5? 0.28/21
[29.Rxa7? Ne2+ 30.Kh2 Nxf4-+]
[29.gxh5!+- 1.91/18 Bxh5 30.Kh1 *(30.Rxa7? Ne2+ 31.Kh2 Nxf4-+)*]
29...fxg5= 30.hxg5 c3 1.60/25
[30...Kg8!= 0.24/22]
31.bxc3
[31.Rxa7? Ne2+ *(31...cxb2 32.Qf6+ Kg8 33.Rb1∓)* 32.Kh2 Nxf4-+]
31...bxc3 32.Rae1 -0.01/20
[32.Rxa7? Ne2+ 33.Kh2 Nxf4-+]
[White must play 32.Qf6+± 1.39/22 Kg8 33.Rc7 *(33.Rxa7 c2=)* 33...Nf3+ 34.Kh1 *(34.Qxf3? Rxc7 35.Rc1 c2-+)*]
32...c2 aiming for ...Nd4-f5. **33.Kg2 Nf5 34.Rc7**
[34.Rxa7? Rd1 35.Rc7 Rxc7 *(35...c1B 36.Qe5+ Kh7 37.Rxc8 Ng7 38.Rxd1 f6 39.Qxf6 Be4+ 40.f3 Bxg5 41.Qxg5; 35...c1Q 36.Rxc1 Rcxc1 37.Qxc1±; 35...Nh4+? 36.Kg3-+)* 36.Qxc7 Rxe1-+ *(36...Nh4+? 37.Kg3-+; 36...Kh7?*

37.Qc3-+)]

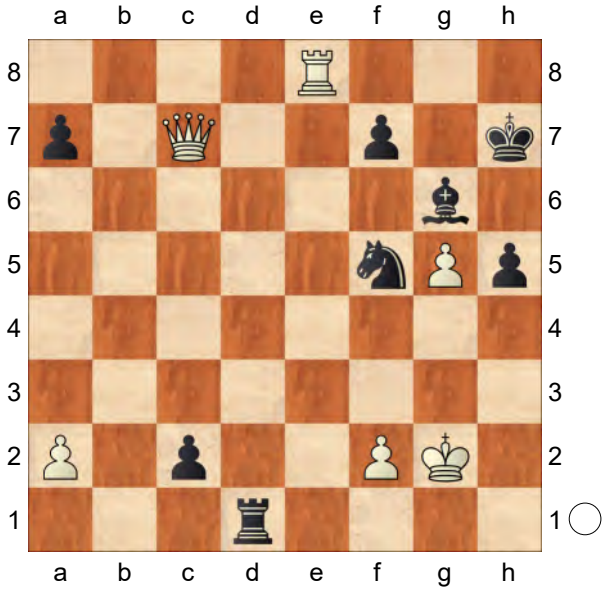
34...Rxc7 35.Qxc7

[35.Qe5+? Kh7 36.Qxc7 Rd1-+]

35...Rd1 36.Re8 Intending Qc7-e5+ and mate. **36...Kh7?** 7.97/26

[Weaker is 36...c1R 37.Qe5+ *(37.Qxa7 Nh4+ 38.Kh3 Rh1+ 39.Kg3 Rhg1+ 40.Kf4 Rc4+ 41.Ke5 Nf3+ 42.Kd5 Rc2 43.Re4 Rxg5+ 44.Kd6 Bxe4 45.Qb8 Rd2+ 46.Kc7 Rc5+ 47.Kb6 Rc6+ 48.Kb7 Rb2+ 49.Ka7 Rxa2+ 50.Kb7 Rc3+ 51.Kb6 Rb2+ 52.Ka7 Ra3#)* 37...f6 38.Qxf6+ Kh7 39.Qh8#]

[36...Nh4+± 1.12/23 37.Kg3 Nf3 Decoy *(37...c1R 38.Qe5+ f6 39.Qxf6+ Kh7 40.Qh8#)* 38.Kxf3 Be4+ *(38...c1Q 39.Qe5+ f6 40.Qxf6+ Kh7 41.Qh8#)* 39.Rxe4 *(39.Kxe4 Re1+ 40.Kf3 c1Q=)* 39...c1Q 40.Qe5+ Kg8]



37.Qc8!+- White threatens Re8-h8+ and mate. **37...Ne3+ 38.Kf3 Be4+ 39.Kxe4** Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/ Black=0.48

1-0

C28

□ **Alinasab,Mobina 2306**

■ **Pranesh,M 2523**

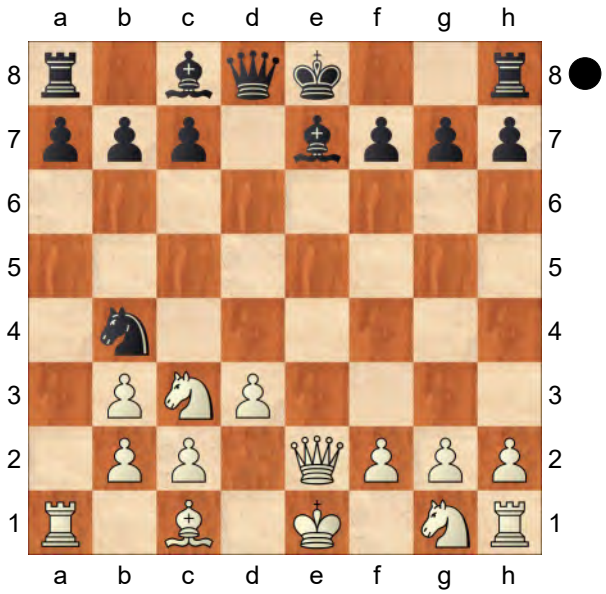
Sant Boi de Llobregat op 4th (1)

[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d3 Na5 5.Bb3 Nxb3 6.axb3 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Qh5 Nb4 9.Qxe5+ Be7 The position is equal. **10.Qe2**

[10.Kd1 feels hotter. 0-0 11.Nf3 Bf6 12.Qf4]



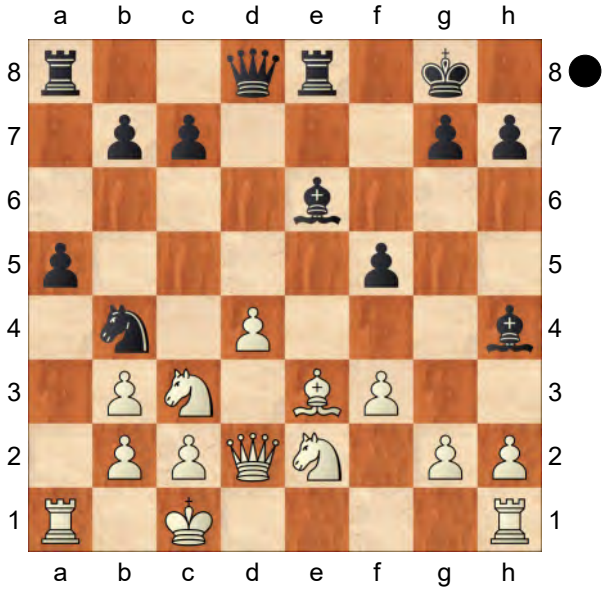
10...Bg4N 0.01/20

[10...0-0 11.Nf3 *(11.Qd1 b6 12.Nge2 Bb7 13.0-0 c5 14.Be3 Qd7 15.Qd2 Bf6 16.Ng3 Rfe8 17.Rfe1 Be5 18.f3 f5 19.Bf2 g6 20.Re2 Re6 21.Nf1 Rae8 22.Rae1 Nc6 23.Bg3 Bd4+ 24.Kh1 Bf6 25.Nb5 Rxe2* Branowski,M (2417)-4. ♘d4 ♘f6 5. f3 35817 (2427) CCLA ch-4 corr USA 1989 (6) ½-½*)* 11...Re8 12.0-0 Bg4 E1) 1.e4 e5 Without 2.Nf3 –-Bishop's Opening 2.Bc4 –]

11.f3 -0.45/18

[11.Qxg4= 0.01/20 Nxc2+ 12.Ke2

Nxa1 13.Qa4+ Qd7 14.Qxa1]
11...Be6 -0.09/18
[11...Bf5∓ -0.45/18 is superior.]
12.Be3= 0-0 Black has compensation.
13.Qd2 Re8
[13...Bh4+!? 14.g3 Bf6±]
14.Nge2 Bh4+ 15.Kd1 a5 16.Kc1 f5 17.d4

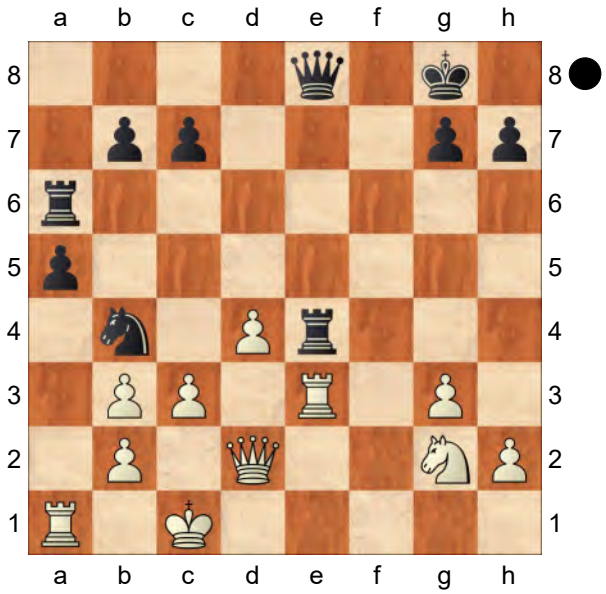


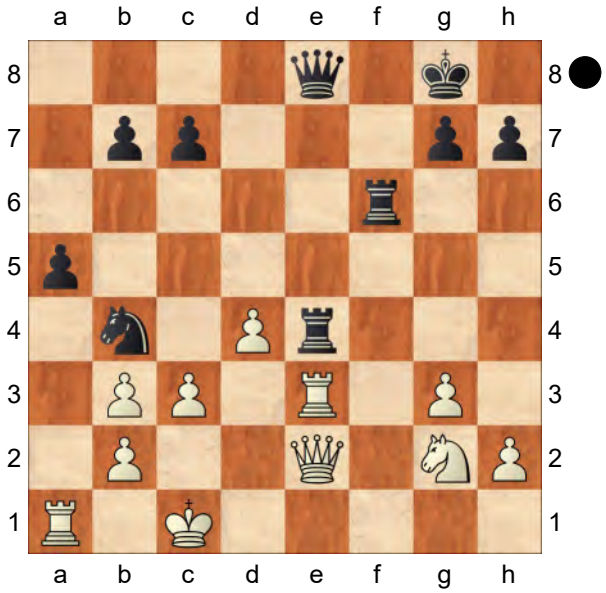
f4! 18.Nxf4 Bf5 19.Ne4! Bxe4 20.fxe4 Rxe4 21.g3! Qe8 -0.36/20
[21...Qe7!∓ -0.81/20 22.c3 Rxe3 23.cxb4 Bg5]
22.Re1∓ Bg5 Black is more active.
23.Ng2 Bxe3 24.Rxe3 Ra6 -0.39/20
[24...Rxe3∓ -0.97/22 25.Nxe3 *(25.Qxe3? Qc6-+)* 25...Qe4]
25.c3? -2.87/23
[25.Kd1∓ -0.39/20]

(Diagram)

Loses the game. **25...Rf6!-+ 26.Qe2**
[26.cxb4 Rf1+ 27.Kc2 Rxa1-+]

(Diagram)



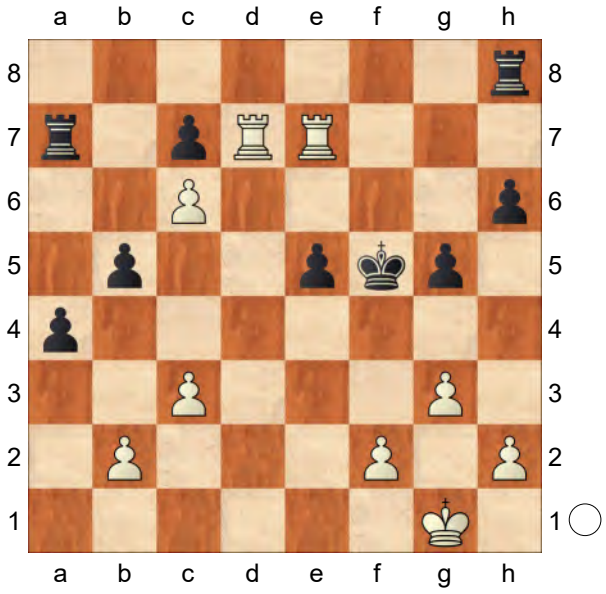


Prevents Rf6-f1+ **26...Rxe3 27.Nxe3 Nd5** Pin **28.Rxa5**
[28.Kd2 Re6 29.Rxa5 Nxe3∓ *(29...Rxe3? 30.Qf1-+)*]
28...Qxe3+
[28...Nxe3? perishes. 29.Re5 Re6 30.Qxe3 Rxe5 31.dxe5+- *(31.Qxe5 Qxe5 32.dxe5 Kf7+-)*]
29.Qxe3 Nxe3 Endgame. KRN-KR
30.Re5 -4.35/22
[⌓30.Ra8+ -2.74/20 Rf8 31.Ra7]
30...Ng4 31.Re7 Rf7 32.Re8+ Rf8 33.Re7 Rc8 34.d5 Nxh2 35.c4

-4.86/19
[35.d6 -3.42/20 is a better defense. cxd6 36.Rxb7]
35...h5 Black is clearly winning. **36.Kc2 Nf1 37.d6 cxd6 38.Rxb7 Nxg3** Strongly threatening ...h5-h4. **39.Rb5 h4** aiming for ...h4-h3. **40.Rg5 Kf7**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.13 (very precise)
0-1

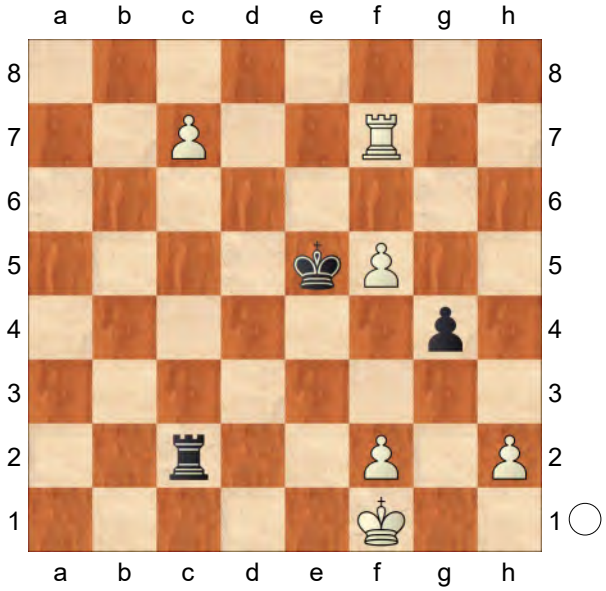
C54
□ **Paveto,Kevin** **2407**
■ **Arias Gaviria,Mario Alexis** **2259**
Villa Constitucion op 6th (4) 16.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bc5N
[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 19.Raxd1 Deschamps,Q (2632)-Lopez Ramirez,D (2436) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (8) 1-0 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 axb4 21.Re7 Rc8 22.a5 Kf8 23.Re4 Na8 24.Rd7 Re8 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.Rxg7 h5 Chigaev,M (2632)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2737) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Feb Late blitz 2023 (5) 0-1]
5.0-0 d6 6.c3 a6 7.Bb3 h6 8.Nbd2 Ba7 9.Re1 g5 The position is equal.
10.Nf1 -0.19/18
[⌓10.d4 0.29/17]
10...Nh5 0.33/19
[10...g4!= -0.19/18 11.N3d2 Qe7]
11.g3±
[11.Nxe5? Nxe5 12.d4 *(12.Qxh5? Bg4-+)* 12...Bg4∓]
11...Nf4! 12.Be3 Nh3+ 13.Kg2 Qf6! 14.Bxa7 Rxa7 15.Qe2 Ne7 16.Ng1 Nxg1 17.Kxg1 Be6 18.Ne3 Bxb3 19.axb3 Qe6 1.10/18
[⌓19...0-0 0.73/17]
20.d4 Kf8 1.46/19
[Black should play 20...exd4 0.95/19 21.cxd4 0-0 *(21...Qxe4? 22.Nf5+-* Pin *)*]
21.dxe5± dxe5 22.Red1 Kg7 23.Qc4 Qxc4 24.bxc4 Rd1-d7 is the strong threat. **24...Kf6 25.Rd7 Ke6 26.Rad1** White is much more active.
[26.Rxc7 Kd6 27.Rxe7 Kxe7=]
26...b5 27.c5 f5 28.exf5+ Nxf5 29.Nxf5 Kxf5+- Endgame. KRR-KRR
30.Rf7+ Ke6 31.Rdd7 a5 32.Rfe7+
[32.Rxc7 Rxc7 33.Rxc7 Kd5=]
32...Kf5 33.c6 aiming for Rd7-d5!
33...a4 2.42/20
[33...b4± 1.44/21 keeps fighting.]



34.Rd5!
[34.Rxc7 a3 35.bxa3 *(35.Rxa7? axb2 36.Rf7+ Kg6-+)* 35...Rxa3±]
34...Kf6 35.Rdxe5 White wants to mate

with g3-g4!
[35.Rexe5 Ra6 36.Rxb5 Rxc6 37.Rf5+ Ke7 38.Rbe5+ Re6±]
35...g4 36.R5e6+ Kf5 37.Re4 Kf6 38.R7e6+ Kf7 39.R6e5 Strongly threatening Re4-f4+. **39...a3 40.Rf4+**
[40.Rxb5? a2 41.Re1 *(41.Rf4+? Ke6-+)* 41...a1Q *(41...a1B 42.Rb7±)* 42.Rxa1 Rxa1+ 43.Kg2 Rf8-+]
40...Kg6 41.Re6+
[41.Rxb5? a2 42.Kg2 *(42.Rxg4+? Kh7-+)* 42...a1Q-+ *(42...a1B 43.Rxg4+ Kf6 44.Rb7±)*]
[41.Rxg4+ Kf6 42.Re1 *(42.Rxb5? a2-+)* 42...a2=]
41...Kg7 42.bxa3
[42.Rxg4+ Kf7 43.Re1 *(43.Re2 a2=)* 43...a2=]
42...h5 43.Re5 Kg6 Dodges Re5-g5+
44.Re6+? -0.01/19
[44.Kg2+- 2.79/22]
44...Kg7!= 45.c4 bxc4 46.Rxc4 Rxa3 47.Re7+ Kg6 48.Rxc7 Rb8? 4.11/22
[48...Ra1+ 2.56/22 49.Kg2 Re8]
49.Rc1+- Ra2 50.Rd7 Rc8 51.c7 Ra7 52.Rc6+ Kf5 53.Rh7 Ke4 54.Kg2 Ra2 55.Rxh5 Rf8 56.Rc4+
[56.c8Q? Raxf2+ *(56...Rxc8? 57.Rxc8 Kd4 58.Rg5+-)* 57.Kh1 Rf1+ 58.Kg2 R8f2#]
56...Kd3 57.Rf4
[57.c8R? Raxf2+ 58.Kg1 Rf1+ 59.Kg2 R8f2#]
[57.Rxg4 Rfxf2+ 58.Kg1 Rg2+ 59.Kf1 Raf2+ 60.Ke1 Re2+ 61.Kf1 Ref2+ 62.Ke1 Re2+ 63.Kf1 Ref2+=]
57...Rxf4 58.gxf4 KR-KR
[58.c8B? gets mated. Raxf2+ 59.Kg1 Rf1+ 60.Kg2 R4f2#]
58...Rc2 59.Rh7 Black must now prevent f4-f5. **59...Ke4 60.Rf7** Hoping for Kg2-g3. **60...Rc3 61.f5?** 1.08/27
[61.f3++- 6.06/28 is more deadly. gxf3+ 62.Kg3]
61...Ke5? 5.37/29
[61...Kf4± 1.08/27 is tougher. 62.Kf1 *(62.f6 Kf5±)* 62...Ke5]
62.Kf1 Rc2



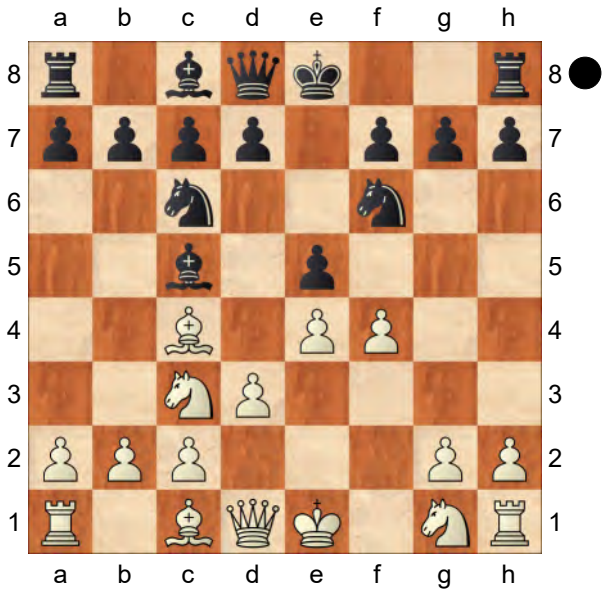
63.Ke1! Ke4 64.Kd1 Rc5 65.Kd2 Rc6 66.f6 Kf5 67.Rh7 Kg5 68.f7 Rxc7 69.f8Q
[Stronger than 69.f8R Rxh7 70.Ke1 Rxh2=]
69...Rxh7 KQ-KR **70.Qg8+ Kh6 71.Qxg4** 18.24/24
[⌓71.Qxh7+ #23/25 Kxh7 72.Ke3 Kh6 73.Kf4 Kh5 74.Kf5 Kh4 75.Kg6 Kh3 76.Kg5]
71...Rf7 72.f4 White threatens f4-f5 and mate. **72...Rg7 73.Qh4+** 6.36/5
[⌓73.Qh3+ #17/22 Kg6 74.f5+ Kf7 75.Qb3+ Kf8 76.f6 Rh7 77.Qb8+ Kf7 78.Qb7+ Kg8 79.Qd5+ Kf8 80.Ke3]
73...Kg6 74.Ke3 Qh4-d8 would kill now. **74...Ra7 75.Qg5+ Kh7 76.Qc5 Rg7 77.Qh5+** 7.71/5
[⌓77.f5 #12/21 Rf7 78.Ke4 Kh6 79.Ke5 Kg7 80.Qg1+ Kh7 81.f6 *(81.Qg6+ Kh8 82.f6 Ra7 83.Qe8+*

Kh7 84.f7 Ra5+ 85.Kf4 Ra4+ 86.Qxa4 Kg7 87.Qd7 Kh8 88.f8Q#) 81...Rc7 82.Kf5 *(82.Qb1+ Kh6 83.Qb6 Rc3 84.f7+ Kg7 85.Ke6 Rc8 86.Qb7 Rf8 87.Qg2+ Kh6)*]
77...Kg8 78.f5 White mates. **78...Rg1 79.f6 Kf8 80.Qh7 Rg6 81.Qe7+**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.20 (precise)
1-0

C28

□ **Amdouni,Z** **2350**
■ **Eljanov,Pavel** **2723**
41st Olympiad Open 2014 (1.2) 02.08.14
[Mikhalevski, V, Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.f4



d5!? 0.46/22 An extremely rare, but nevertheless interesting continuation.
6.exd5N -0.13/22 White has two alternatives at his disposal.
[6.Bxd5 -0.41/19 6.Nc3xd5 0.55 Nxd5 7.exd5 exf4 0.04/20 *(7...Nb4!?* is interesting too.*; 7...Nb4∓* -0.39/21) 8.Nf3 -0.66/20 *(* The knight is untouchable. *8.dxc6?* -2.78/16 8.Bc1xf4 0.10 *Qh4+ 9.g3 fxg3 10.Qe2+ Kf8! 11.Kf1 Bg4-+* with decisive threats.*; 8.Bxf4=* 0.04/20 *Nd4 9.Qd2)* 8...Ne7∓ 9.d4 Bb6 -0.29/25 *(9...Bd6∓* -0.70/21) 10.0-0= 0-0 Black wins back the d5-pawn and obtains a good position.]
[6.Nxd5! The best of the captures.
A) 6...Nxd5 7.Bxd5 Bxg1? is dubious. 8.Bxc6+! *(*After *8.Qh5?* -0.97/20 8.Bd5xc6+ 0.92 *0-0!* Black saves the knight and his chances are higher. ...Nc6-b4! is the strong threat. *9.Rxg1 Nd4∓* Mitkov, N (2470)-Korneev, O (2565)/ Benasque 1996.*; 8.Rxg1 Qh4+ 9.g3 Qxh2 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Be3* 3) Bishop's Opening 2... Nc6:-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3. N *)* 8...bxc6 9.Rxg1± White is a healthy pawn up.;
B) 6...Ng4 0.75/17 6...0-0 0.36 is strongly answered by 7.f5! Nf2? 2.12/19 *(7...h5* is better, but after *8.Nh3!±* White retains an extra pawn. Inhibits Ng4-f2.*; 7...h5!±* 0.69/20 *)* 8.Qh5!+- Nxh1 1.44/18 *(8...g6+-* 1.97/21 *9.fxg6 fxg6)* 9.Bg5!± Qd7 *(9...Qd6 10.Nf6+* 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6:-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.N*)* 10.Bf6!;
C) 6...Be6!? Seems to be the best reaction. Now after 7.Nxf6+ Qxf6 8.Bxe6 Qxe6 9.f5 Qd6 10.Nf3! 0-0-0 with the idea of ...g6, Black obtains compensation for the sacrificed pawn.]
[6.Nxd5± 0.46/22 Na5 7.fxe5 Nxe4 8.dxe4 Nxc4 9.Qd3]
6...Bg4!= 7.Qd2 -1.32/21 This move is

already a mistake.
[White should have chosen between 7.Nge2 Nd4 8.h3! Bxe2 9.Nxe2 Hoping for c2-c3. b5 10.Nxd4 bxc4 11.fxe5 Bxd4 12.exf6 0-0 And now ...Rf8-e8+ would win. 13.Qf3 Re8+ 14.Kd1 cxd3 with the initiative for the sacrificed material.]
[and 7.Nf3 Nd4! 8.fxe5 Nd7! 9.Bf4! Bxf3 10.gxf3 Qh4+! 11.Bg3 Qh5 12.0-0 b5! with favourable complications for Black.]
[7.Nf3= -0.16/23 Nd4 8.fxe5]

7...exf4!∓ Black has more active pieces.

8.Qxf4 Another mistake in a bad position. Black is clearly better.
[White's problem is that the knight can't be captured. 8.dxc6? -2.19/20 8.Ng1-e2 -1.64 Be3-+ and White loses the queen.]
[8.Nge2 Be3 9.Qd1 is the lesser evil, though after Bxe2! 10.Nxe2 Nxd5∓ Black is already clearly better.]
[8.dxc6 Be3]

8...Qe7+? -1.23/20 Black returns the favour.
[After the correct 8...Nd4! 9.Kd2 Nc3-e4 would now be deadly. *(* or *9.Qe5+* -2.92/19 9.Ke1-d2 -1.74 *Kf8 10.Kf1 Nxc2 11.Rb1 Bd6 12.Qg5 Qd7-+)* 9...Nf5! Strongly threatening ... 0-0. 10.Qe5+ Kd7! 11.Nf3 Be3+ 12.Kd1 Re8-+ and Black is winning.]
[Black should try 8...Nd4-+ -1.78/20 9.Kd2 0-0]

9.Kf1? -2.13/22 Another mistake.
[9.Ne4! was necessary. Now after 0-0-0! *(* The idea behind White's 9th move is to meet *9...Nd4?!* 0.63/16 9...Nc6-e5 -0.46 with *10.Kd2* and White is doing fine.*)* 10.Kf1 -1.19/19 *(*White should play *10.dxc6∓* -0.53/20 *Qxe4+ 11.Qxe4 Nxe4 12.Nf3)* 10...Nd4∓ Black retains the upper hand, but his advantage isn't decisive yet.]
[9.Ne4∓ -1.23/20 Nxe4 10.Qxe4]

9...Ne5? -0.33/22 Quite surprisingly Eljanov doesn't take advantage of White's mistake.
[After the simple 9...Nd4! there is no good defence of the c2-pawn. 10.Qd2? -3.54/19 *(10.Qe3 Nxc2 11.Qxe7+ Kxe7 12.Rb1 Rhe8!∓* is just better for Black.*; 10.d6* -2.10/21 was necessary. *cxd6 11.Be3 Nxc2 12.Bxc5 dxc5 13.Rc1)* 10...0-0-0-+ with the consequent ...Rhe8 Black's attack is decisive.]
[9...Nd4-+ -2.13/22 10.Rb1 0-0 *(10...Nxc2 11.Ne4∓)*]

10.Bb5+∓ c6 11.dxc6 -1.27/18 White opens the d-file, which is in Black's favour.
[It seems that both players missed the immediate 11.d4! Ng6 12.Qf2 -1.20/20 *(12.dxc6∓* -0.32/21 *0-0-0 13.Qe3 Qxe3 14.cxb7+ Kxb7 15.Bxe3 Bxd4 16.Bxd4 Rxd4 17.Nge2)* 12...cxb5∓ 13.Bg5! with the idea of 14.Re1 White creates sufficient counterplay.]
[11.d4!∓ -0.31/19 Ng6 12.Qf2]

11...bxc6∓ 12.d4 Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Rd8! Pavel exploits the opening of the d-file.
[13...cxb5 14.Bg5 Rd8 15.Qf4∓]

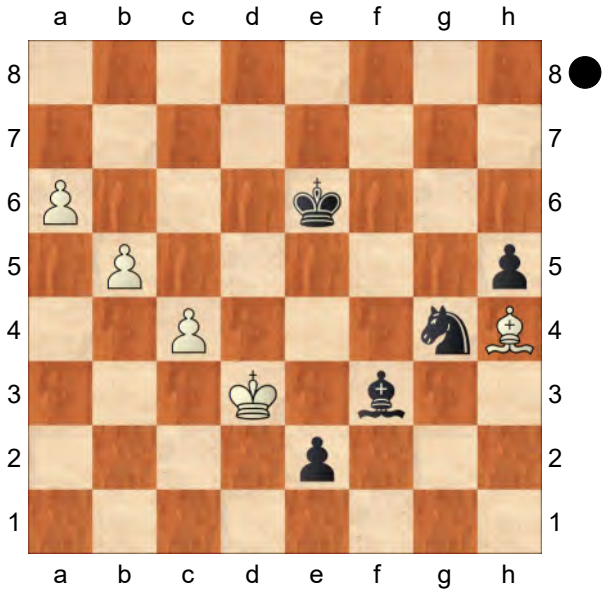
14.Bxc6+ Nxc6 15.Qa4 -2.52/20
[⌓15.Qe3 -1.65/20 Be6 16.Nf3]

15...Qe6!-+ 16.Bg5?
[16.h3 was necessary, though Black is still on top after Rd4! 17.Qb5 a6 18.Qg5 Nd5! -1.73/20 *(⌓18...Qc4+!* -3.35/20 *19.Kf2 0-0 20.hxg4 Nxg4+ 21.Kg3 h6 22.Rxh6 Nxh6)* 19.Kf2 Threatens to win with Nc3xd5. Nxc3 20.bxc3 Rd1 21.Qe3 Ne5!∓]

16...Rd4!
[16...0-0 17.Re1 Qf5+ 18.Qf4=]
17.Re1 Rxa4 -1.20/19
[17...Ne4! was much stronger. 18.Rxe4 *(or 18.Qb5 0-0-+* and Black is winning as White can't finish development.*)* 18...Qxe4 19.Nxe4 Rxa4-+ and Black wins an exchange.]
[17...Ne4!-+ -2.48/25 has better winning chances. 18.Qa6 *(18.Rxe4? Qxe4 19.Nxe4 Rxa4-+)* 18...0-0 19.Nxe4 Rxe4 20.Rxe4 Qxe4]
18.Rxe6+∓ fxe6 19.Nxa4 Ne4 20.Be3 0-0+ 21.Nf3! White is back in the game.
[21.Ke1? -2.78/20 21.Ng1-f3 -1.29 was bad due to Nb4 22.Nf3 Rxf3! 23.gxf3 Bxf3 24.Rg1 Nxc2+ 25.Kf1 Nxe3+ with a winning endgame for Black.]
21...Ne5!↑ Black has strong initiative.
22.Ke1 -1.78/20
[22.Rg1∓ -1.17/22]
22...Nxf3+-+ 23.gxf3 Rxf3
[23...Bxf3 24.Rf1=]
24.Bc5 -2.86/21
[24.Bxa7 deserved attention. In this case Black would have to play very precisely to stay on top. Rf7! 25.Bd4 e5! with the idea of 26... Rd7. 26.Rg1 Bd7! 27.Bxe5 Bxa4∓]
[24.Bxa7 Rf7 25.Bd4 Rd7!-+]
[⌓24.Bd4 -1.94/25]
24...e5! Black creates a threat of 25. .. Bd7 **25.Rf1**
[If White protects the knight by means of 25.b3 Black answers with Nxc5! 26.Nxc5 Rc3-+]
25...Rxf1+ 26.Kxf1 Bd7∓ Finally Black wins a piece. **27.Bxa7 Bxa4** Endgame. **28.b3 Bc6 29.Bb8 Nd2+ 30.Ke2 Nf3 31.c4 Kf7**
[But not 31...Nxh2 32.Bxe5 Ng4 33.Bg3-+]
32.b4 Nd4+ -1.20/22 This check seems to help White.
[32...Nxh2! 33.Bxe5 Bf3+ 34.Kd3 Ng4 35.Bf4 h5-+ and Black starts advancing his kingside pawns.]
[32...Nxh2-+ -4.18/24 and Black stays clearly on top. 33.Bxe5 Bf3+ 34.Ke1 Ng4]
33.Kd3 Ke6 34.b5 Bf3 -1.12/23
[⌓34...Bg2! -1.54/23 White must now prevent ...g7-g5. 35.a4 Nf5]
35.Ba7 -2.59/26
[35.a4∓ -1.12/23 was the only defense.]
35...Nf5 36.a4 g5 -0.17/19
[36...e4+!? -0.97/20 36...Nf5-d6 -1.48]
[36...Nd6-+ -1.64/23 aiming for ...Bf3-d1. 37.Kc3 Be2]
37.a5!= e4+ -0.04/30
[37...Ba8∓ -0.85/23]
38.Kc3 e3 39.a6 e2 40.Bf2 Some inaccuracies from Black allowed White to obtain good drawing chances.
40...Ne3 Decoy, Promotion **41.Kd3! Ng4 42.Bg3**
[42.Be1 looks sharper. Nxh2 43.c5 Kd7 44.c6+]
42...h5 43.h4? -2.69/22
[After the correct 43.c5! h4 44.Be1 Ne5+ 45.Ke3= the position is roughly equal.]
[43.c5= 0.00/26 and White stays safe.]
43...gxh4? -1.53/17 Black returns the favour again.
[After 43...Ne5+! 44.Ke3 g4!∓ -0.04/27 Black keeps more pawns on the board and thus retains more winning chances. *(44...gxh4!-+* -2.88/24 *45.Bxh4 Bh1)*]
[43...Ne5+-+ -2.69/22 44.Ke3 g4

(44...Nxc4+? too greedy. 45.Kxf3 gxh4 46.Bxh4+-)]

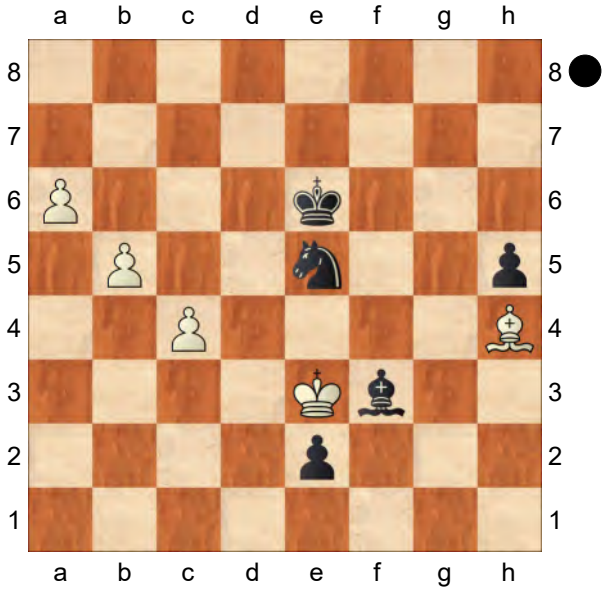
44.Bxh4∓



Ne5+! 45.Ke3? -5.29/26

[45.Kc3!= was enough for a draw.]

[45.Kc3∓ -1.15/26]



A losing move. **45...Kf5!-+**

[45...Nxc4+ 46.Kxf3 e1Q 47.Bxe1+-]

46.c5 Kg4 47.Be1 -7.33/22

[⌓47.Bf2 -4.76/25 h4 48.c6 Nc4+ 49.Kd3]

47...h4 48.c6 Nc4+! Black stops White's passed pawns and wins the game. **49.Kf2 h3 50.Kg1 Nb6 51.Bd2 Kg3 52.Be1+ Kf4 53.Kh2 Bg2 54.a7 Ke3 55.Ba5 Na8 56.Kg3 Kd3 57.Kf2 Kc4 58.Kxe2 h2** 5...d5 is an interesting way to complicate matters, though one has to be ready to play a complex position. As you can see even strong GMs make mistakes in these type of positions.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.62/ Black=0.33

0-1

		C28
□	**Padurariu,Mihai Edward**	**2233**
■	**Itkis,Boris**	**2279**
ROM-chT Mamaia (3.5)		30.09.2024

[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Nge2 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Be6 8.Bxd5 Bxd5 9.f4 f6! is recently more successful than 9...0-0. ist inzwischen erfolgreicher als 9...0-0.

10.fxe5 Nxe5 11.d4 The position is equal.

[11.Nxd5 Qxd5 12.Nf4 Qd7 13.c3 Bd6 14.d4 0-0-0 15.Qb3 Ng6 16.Ne6 Rde8 17.d5 Nf8 18.Nd4 Ng6 19.Ne6 Nf8 20.Nd4 Ng6 21.Ne6 Andreikin,D (2724)-Giri,A (2771) Belgrade FIDE GP 2 KO 2022 (1.3) ½-½]

11...Ng6 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 13.a3N

[13.c3 aiming for Qd1-a4+. Bd6 14.Nf4 Bxf4 15.Bxf4 0-0-0 0.40/22 *(15...c6=* 0.00/21 *)* 16.Bg3± h5 Dodges Qd1-g4+ 17.Qd3! Qf7 18.h3 h4 1.06/19 *(18...Ne7!±* 0.67/23

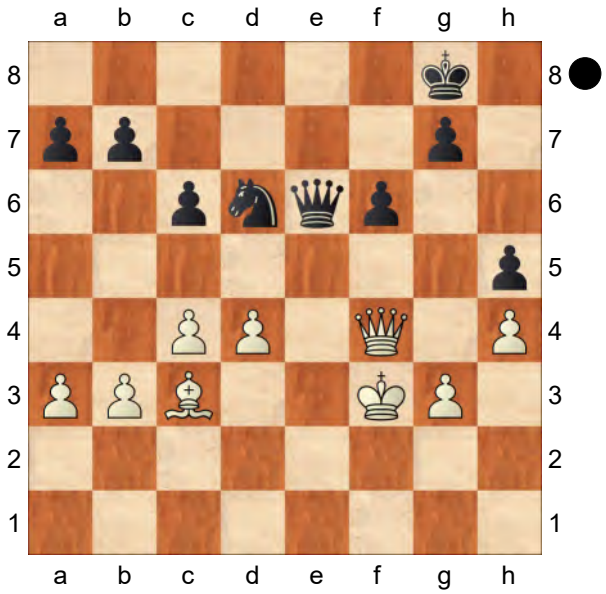
might be stronger.) 19.Bh2 Bachmann,A (2611)-Andreikin,D (2729) Titled Tuesday intern op 22nd Aug Early blitz 2023 (11) ½-½]
[13.Nf4 Nxf4 14.Bxf4 0-0-0 15.Qd3 Rde8 De la Fuente,A-Markus,R CC 2019 Ballerup DEN]

13...Be7
[13...Bd6 feels hotter. 14.Nc3 Qc6 15.Qd3 0-0]

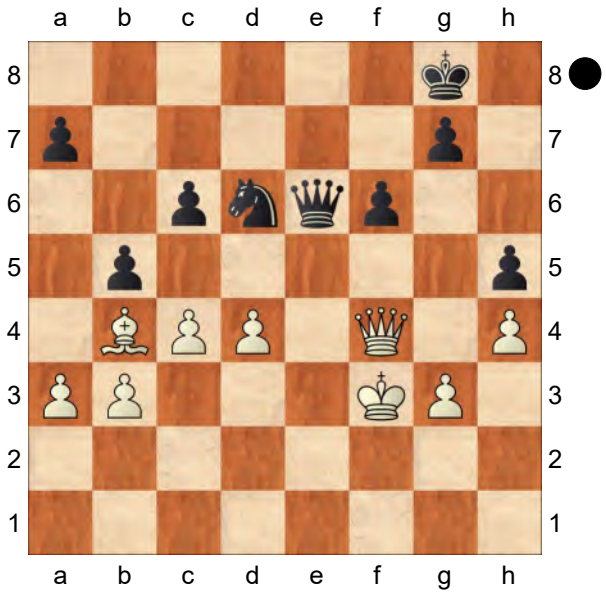
14.Qd3 Rd8 15.b3 0-0 16.c4 Qd7 17.Bb2 c6 18.Qf3 Bd6 19.Rae1 Rfe8 20.Nc3 -0.62/19
[20.Ng3= -0.14/20]

20...Re7 -0.16/20
[20...Bc7∓ -0.62/19 21.Ne4 Bb6]

21.Ne4= Rde8 White must now prevent ...Ng6-h4. **22.Nxd6 Qxd6 23.Rxe7 Rxe7 24.g3 Nf8 25.Rd1 Ne6 26.h4** Prevents Ne6-g5 **26...Nc7 27.Bc1 Rd7 28.Kg2 Qe7 29.Bb2 Qe6 30.Rd2 Qd6 31.Re2 Re7 32.Rxe7 Qxe7** Endgame. KQB-KQN **33.Kf2 Ne8 34.Qf4 Nd6 35.Kf3 h5 36.Bc3** Hoping for Bc3-b4. **36...Qd7 37.Kg2 Qe6 38.Kf3** -2.18/20
[38.Qf3= -0.19/20]



Prevents Qe6-e2+. Now White is beyond hope. **38...b5!-+ 39.Bb4**



bxc4! 40.bxc4
[40.Bxd6? loses. cxb3 41.Qc1 Qxd6-+]
[40.Qxd6? Qxd6 41.Bxd6 cxb3-+]

40...Nxc4 Strongly threatening ...a7-a5. **41.Qe4** -4.55/24
[⌓41.Kf2 -3.10/20]

41...Kf7 42.Qd3 Qd5+ 43.Kf2 Ne5 44.Qc3 Ng4+ 45.Kg1 Qe4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/ Black=0.12 (very precise)
0-1

C30
□ **Sherman,Reem** **2249**
■ **Gorodetzky,David** **2492**
Ramat Gan Winter op rapid (3) 07.01.23
[Kitty Kat]

C30: King's Gambit Declined
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 a6 7.f5 h6 8.Qe2
[8.a3 Qe7 9.Nd5 Nxd5 10.Bxd5 Bd7 11.c3 Bb6 12.Rf1 0-0-0 13.g3 Qe8 14.Qe2 Ne7 15.Ba2 Bc6 16.Be3 Bxe3 17.Qxe3 Kb8 18.0-0-0

f6 19.d4 Qh5 20.d5 Bd7 21.Bc4 Qf7 22.Bd3 c6 Moutousis,K (2392)-Trimitzios,P (2358) GRE-ch 71st Athens 2022 (2) ½-½]

8...Nd4N

[8...Bd7 9.a3 Qe7 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.Bxd5 0-0-0 12.c3 g6 13.fxg6 fxg6 14.b4 Bb6 15.Be3 Bxe3 16.Qxe3 Rdf8 17.a4 Nb8 18.0-0 Rf4 19.b5 Rhf8 20.Qa7 c6 21.bxc6 Bxc6 22.Bxc6 Nxc6 23.Qe3 Hagarova,Z (2352)-Mamedjarova,Z (2345) EU-chT (Women) 2003 (3) 0-1]

9.Nxd4 Bxd4 10.Nd5 White is slightly better. **10...Bd7 11.c3 Ba7 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.Nxe3 Bc6 14.0-0 Qe7 15.Bb3 Rd8 16.c4 b6 17.Rf3 Bb7 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.cxd5 g5** 0.99/19

[19...0-0± 0.41/20]

20.fxg6 fxg6 21.Raf1 0.01/21

[21.Qd2± 0.83/20]

21...0-0= 22.Bc2 Kg7 23.h3 Nh5 24.Rxf8 Rxf8 25.Rxf8 Qxf8 Endgame. KQB-KQN

[25...Kxf8 simplifies 26.Qf2+ Kg8 27.Bd1 Nf6]

26.Qe3 Qf4 27.Qxf4 Nxf4 KB-KN **28.Kf2** -0.37/29

[28.Kf1= -0.01/29]

28...Kf6 -0.01/30

[28...g5!∓ -0.37/29 is superior.]

29.Kf3 -0.38/28

[29.h4= -0.01/30]

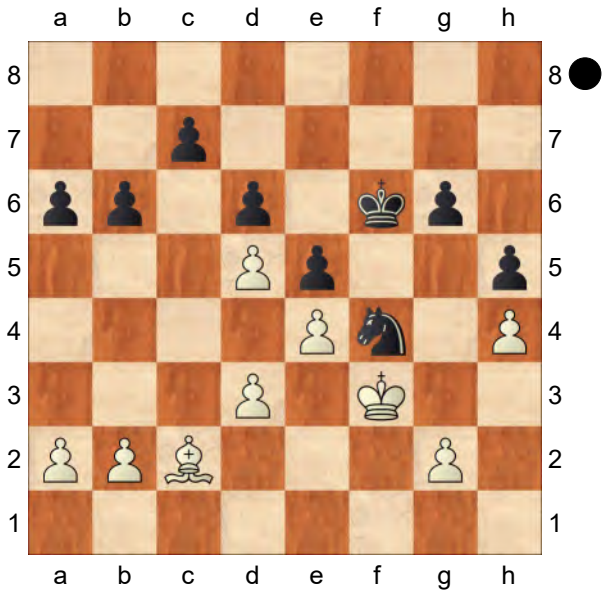
29...h5 -0.01/28

[29...g5∓ -0.38/28]

30.h4

(Diagram)

aiming for g2-g3. **30...g5! 31.hxg5+ Kxg5 32.g3 Ng6 33.Bd1 h4 34.gxh4+ Kxh4 35.Ke3 Kg3 36.Be2 Nf4 37.Bd1**

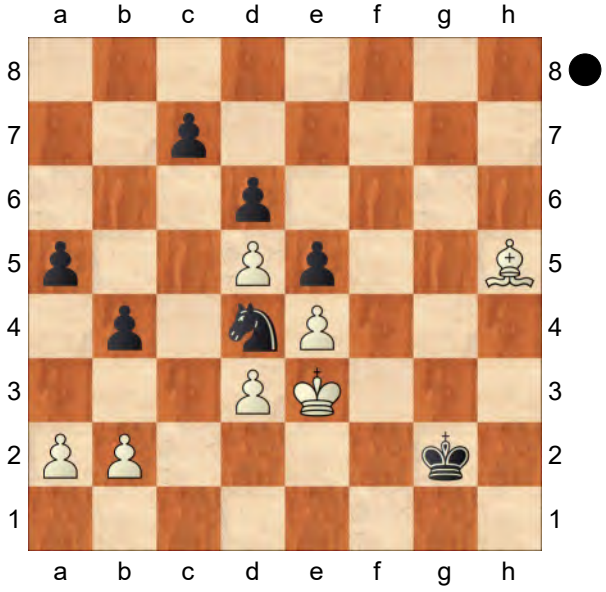


Ng2+ 38.Ke2 Kf4 39.Ba4 Ne3 40.Be8 Nc2 41.Kd2 Nd4 42.Bh5 Kg5 43.Bd1 a5 44.Ke3 b5 45.Kd2 Kf4 46.Bh5 b4 47.Bd1 Kg3 Hoping for ...Kg3-f2. **48.Ke3** -1.82/32

[48.Ke1= -0.19/33]

48...Kg2-+ 49.Bh5 -2.60/31

[49.Bg4∓ -1.47/33 might work better.]



49...Kf1!

[49...a4 50.a3=]

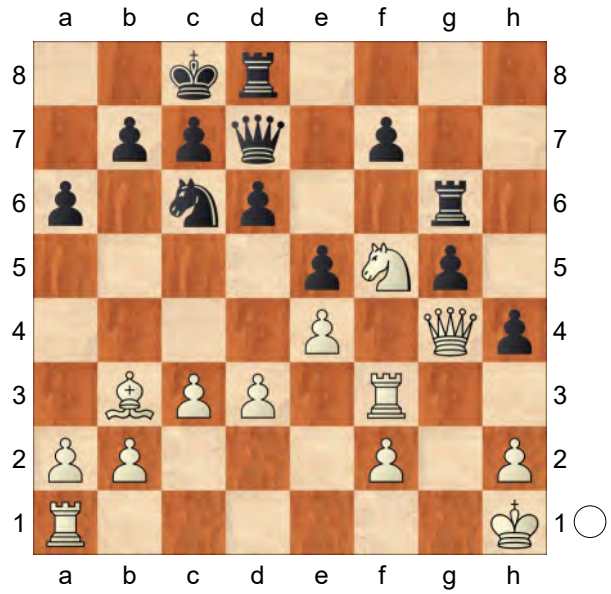
50.Kd2 Kf2 ...Nd4-f3+ is the strong threat. **51.a3?** -4.69/29

[51.Be8 -1.83/28]
51...Nb3+? -0.01/26
[51...Nf3+-+ -4.69/29 52.Kc2 *(52.Bxf3? Kxf3 53.Kc1 Ke2-+)* 52...Ke3]
52.Kc2= Nd4+ 53.Kd2 Nb5? -0.01/27
[53...Nf3+-+ -2.77/26 54.Kc2 *(54.Bxf3? Kxf3 55.axb4 axb4-+)* 54...Ke3]
54.axb4 axb4 55.Kc2? -4.52/30
[55.Bf7= -0.01/31 and White has nothing to worry.]
55...Nd4+-+ 56.Kd2 Nb3+? -0.01/30
[Black should play 56...Nf3+-+ -4.59/31 57.Kc2 *(57.Bxf3? Kxf3 58.Kc2 Ke3-+)* 57...Ke3]
57.Kc2= Nc5 58.Kd2 Na4 59.Be8 Nc5
[59...Nxb2? perishes. 60.Kc2 Ke3 61.Kxb2+-]
60.Bh5 Kf1 61.Be2+ Kf2 62.Bd1 Repels Nc5-b3+ **62...Nd7 63.Bg4 Nc5 64.Bd1** Repels Nc5-b3+ **64...Kg3 65.Ke3 Nd7 66.Be2 Nf6 67.Bd1 Kg2 68.Kd2**
[Reject 68.d4 Kf1]
68...Kf2 69.Be2 Nd7 70.Bg4 Nc5 71.Bd1 Inhibits Nc5-b3+. **71...b3 72.Kc3?** -5.20/25
[72.Be2= 0.01/28]
72...Ke3-+ 73.d4
Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.43
0-1

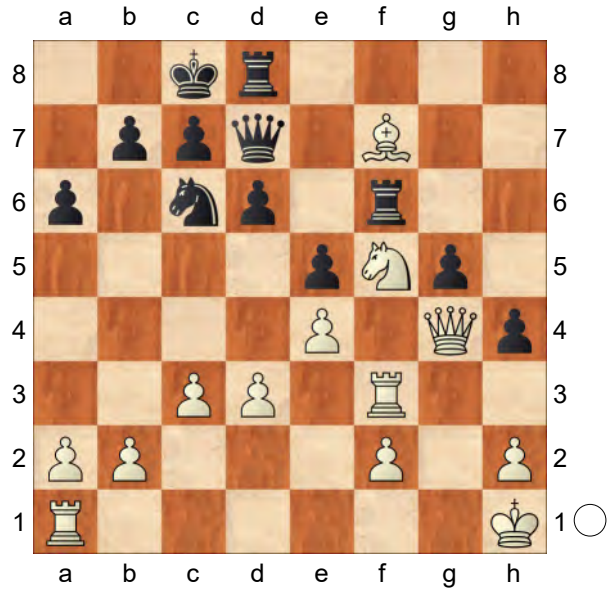
C54
□ **Degraeve,Jean Marc** **2487**
■ **Ben Amar,Yanis** **1980**
Allauch op 6th (4) 28.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bc5N
[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Nb6 9.Bb3 a5 10.h3 Qd6 11.Nc3 Be6 12.Nb5 Bxb3 13.Nxd6+ Bxd6 14.cxb3 0-0 15.d4 Rad8 16.dxe5 Bb4 17.Bd2 Nxe5 18.Bxb4 Rxd1 19.Raxd1 Deschamps,Q (2632)-Lopez Ramirez,D (2436) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (8) 1-0 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 axb4 21.Re7 Rc8 22.a5 Kf8 23.Re4 Na8 24.Rd7 Re8 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.Rxg7 h5 Chigaev,M (2632)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2737) Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Feb Late blitz 2023 (5) 0-1]
5.0-0 d6 6.c3 a6 7.Bb3 Ba7 8.Nbd2 h6 9.Re1 g5 10.Nf1 Nh5 The position is equal. **11.Be3**
[Not 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.d4 *(12.Qxh5? Bg4-+)* 12...Bg4-+]
11...Bxe3 12.Nxe3 Nf3xe5! is the strong threat. **12...Nf4 13.g3 Rg8 14.Kh1 Nh3 15.Qe2 h5 16.Ng1** White is more active. **16...h4** 3.75/21
[16...Rh8± 0.92/19 was worth a try.]
17.Nxh3+- Bxh3 18.g4 Rg6 19.Qf3 White is clearly winning. **19...Rf6 20.Nf5**
[Don't do 20.Qxh3 Rxf2 21.Rf1 Rf4+-]
20...Bxg4 21.Qxg4 Rg6 22.Re3 Qd7 23.Rf3 0-0-0

(Diagram)



24.Bxf7! Decoy **24...Rf6**
[24...Rg7 25.Nxg7]



25.Ne7+! White took control after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.48
1-0

C54
□ **Marszalek,Maciej** **2276**
■ **Alimbetov,Dias** **1887**
Polanica Zdroj op 60th (4) 20.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
Jacimovic,Dragoljub: 'The following game features two players who were inspired to battle it out and secure important victory for their teams.' **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.d3 Bc5**
[3...Nf6 4.a3 *(4.Nc3 Bc5 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.Na4 Bb6 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.0-0 0-0 12.b3 Qd6 13.Bb2 Qc5+ 14.Kh1 Ng4 15.Qe2 Rf6 16.h3 Ne3 17.Rfe1 Qxc2 18.Nxe5 Rf2* Pinheiro,I (2306)-Dehtiarov,R (2300) Titled Tuesday intern op 21st Feb Early blitz 2023 (11) 1-0*)* 4...Bc5 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 d6 7.Nge2 b5 8.Ba2 Be6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Kh1 Bxa2 11.Rxa2 d5 12.f4 exf4 13.e5 Nh5 14.d4 Bb6 15.Bxf4 f6 16.Bh2 fxe5 17.Rxf8+ Qxf8 18.dxe5 Nabaty,T (2639)-Inarkiev,E (2665) Ulcinj 14210 2019 0-1]
4.Nf3N
[4.Ne2 Nf6 5.0-0 d6 6.Nbc3 Nd4 7.Na4 0-0 8.c3 Nxe2+ 9.Qxe2 Bg4 10.Qe1 Qd7 11.Nxc5 dxc5 12.f3 Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Be3 b6 15.Rd1 Qf7 16.Qg3 Qh5 17.h3 Rad8 18.Rd2 Rd6 Almada,M-Steiner, A chess.com (Int.-blitz) 146/(195) 2020 (2) 1-0]
[4.Nc3 d6 5.Na4 Bb6 6.Nxb6 axb6 7.Ne2 Na5 8.Nc3 Nxc4 9.dxc4 Be6 10.b3 Qh4 11.Qd3 Ne7 12.Be3 f5 13.exf5 Nxf5 14.0-0 0-0 15.a4 Rf7 16.Qd2 Raf8 17.f3 h6 18.Bf2 Qd8

Tschurl,M (2264)-Solution (2306) 46/87 Belgrad 1988 (7.7) ½-½]
[4.f4 Bxg1 5.Rxg1 Qh4+ 6.Kf1 Nf6 7.g3 Qxh2 8.Qd2 Qh5 9.c3 d6 10.f5 d5 11.exd5 Qxf5+ 12.Ke1 Ne7 13.Rf1 Qh5 14.Qg5 Qxg5 15.Bxg5 Nexd5 16.Nd2 h6 17.Bxf6 Nxf6 18.Nf3 Ng4 Colin,V (2427)-Dietmayer Kraeutler,M (2251) EU-ch 12th Aix les Bains 2011 (9) 0-1]

4...d6 5.c3 Nf6 6.a4 a6 7.0-0 Ba7 8.Re1 0-0 9.h3 Ne7 10.Nbd2 Ng6 11.Nf1 c6 12.Bb3 Be6 13.Bc2 Re8 0.47/20

[13...d5= -0.03/18]

14.Ng3 0.00/19

[14.d4± 0.47/20]

14...h6 0.44/19

[14...d5= 0.00/19]

15.d4± Qc7 16.Be3 c5 17.Rc1

[17.d5 simplifies Bd7 18.a5 c4 19.Bxa7 Rxa7 20.Nd2]

17...b5 18.Qd2 Kh7 19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.exf5 Ne7 21.dxe5 dxe5 22.axb5 axb5 23.Qe2 -0.28/19

[⌓23.Nh2 0.11/20]

23...e4 24.Nh4 -2.95/20

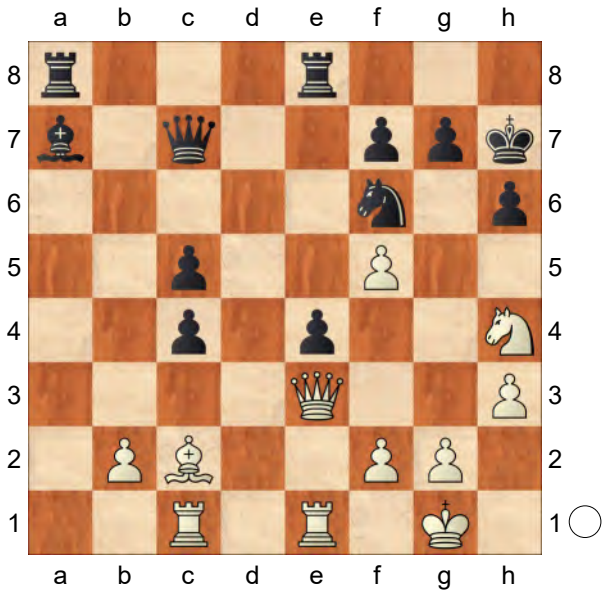
[24.Nd2= -0.06/19 and White is okay.]

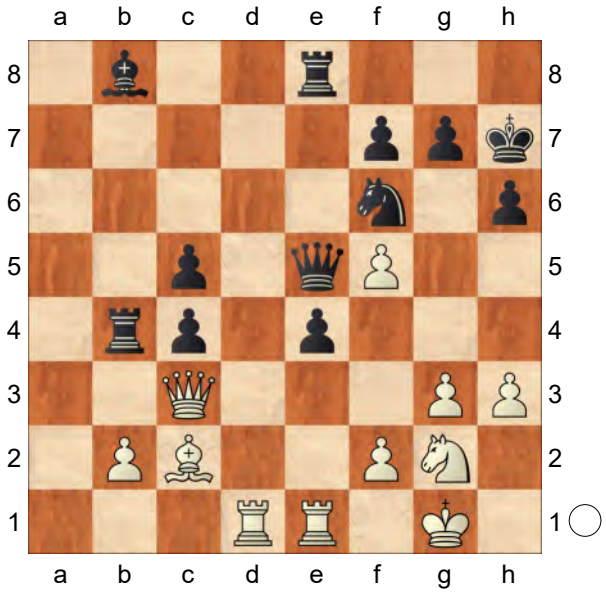
24...Ned5-+ Strongly threatening ... Nd5xe3. Excellent horsemanship. **25.c4 Nxe3 26.Qxe3 bxc4**

(Diagram)

...c4-c3! would now be deadly. **27.Qc3 Rab8 28.Rcd1 Rb4 29.g3 Bb8 30.Ng2 Qe5?** -0.89/21

[30...Qc8-+ -2.77/18 has better winning chances. White must now prevent ...Bb8-e5! 31.Ne3 Be5 Skewer]





31.Ne3∓ Rxb2 32.Qxc4 Kg8 -0.11/21

[32...Qc7∓ -0.51/21 should be considered.]

33.Nd5= Qxf5

[33...Bd6 is more complex. 34.Nxf6+ Qxf6 35.Rxe4 Rxe4 36.Qxe4 Qe5]

34.Nxf6+

[34.Re2 keeps more tension. Be5 35.Nxf6+ gxf6 36.Rxe4 Rb4 37.Rg4+]

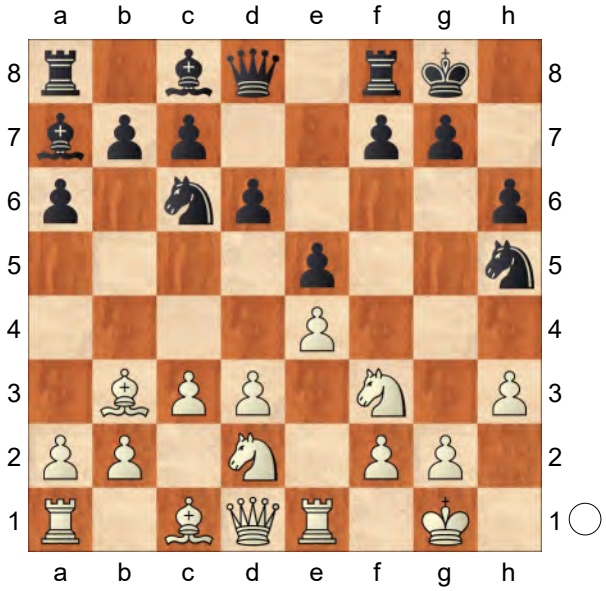
34...gxf6

[M u c h w o r s e i s 34...Qxf6?! 35.Qxc5±]

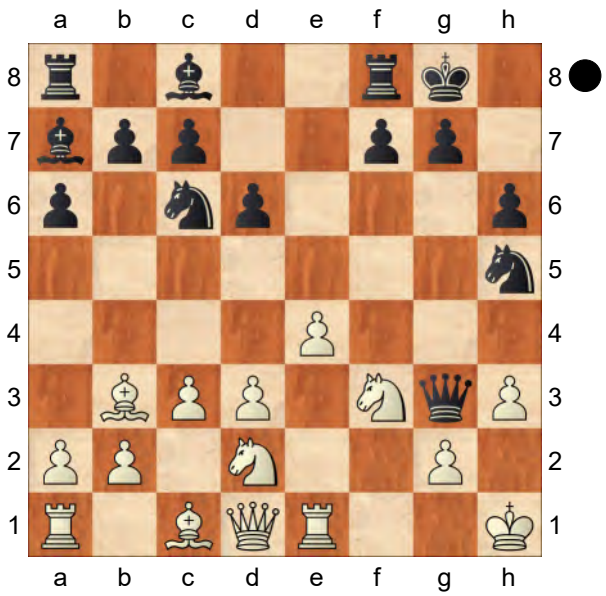
35.Rxe4
[35.Rb1 looks sharper. Rxb1 36.Bxb1 Qxh3 37.Rxe4 Rxe4 38.Qxe4 Bxg3 39.fxg3 Qxg3+ 40.Kf1]
35...Rxe4 36.Qxe4 Qxe4 37.Bxe4 KRB-KRB **37...Be5 38.Rc1 Bd4 39.Rc2 Rb1+ 40.Kg2 Re1 41.Bd5** Black had all chances to win.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.21 (precise)
½-½

C54
□ **Burtasova,Anna** **2241**
■ **Kamenskaya,Marina** **1820**
Swiss Queens Wed #25 blitz (3) 17.7.24
[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 d6 5.0-0N
[5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 g5 7.Bg3 Nc6 8.Nfd2 a6 9.h4 g4 10.h5 Be6 11.Bh4 Rg8 12.Nc3 b5 13.Bb3 Nd4 14.Ne2 Bxb3 15.Nxb3 Nxb3 16.axb3 Qe7 17.Ng3 Qe6 18.Qd2 Rh8 19.Nf5 Kf8 12.♕h5 g6 13.♕d5 ♕c7 (2283)-Chu,W (2250) Garmisch Partenkirchen rapid 1994 (3) 1-0]
[5.c3 Bb6 *(5...0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Be3 Nc6 8.Nbd2 a6 9.b4 Bxe3 10.fxe3 b5 11.Bb3 Be6 12.Qe2 a5 13.bxa5 Nxa5 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.0-0 c5 16.Rfb1 Qd7 17.Rb2 Rfb8 18.Rab1 Nc6 19.h3 b4 20.cxb4* Dubreuil,J (2265)-Blondel,J (1898) EU-ch 12th Aix les Bains 2011 (4) 1-0*)* 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Bb3 Re8 9.Re1 Be6 10.Bc2 h6 11.h3 Nbd7 12.d4 Qc7 13.Nf1 Rad8 14.Ng3 Nf8 15.Be3 Ng6 16.Qc1 Bc8 17.a3 d5 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Nxe4 Ellithorpe,G (2716)-Hantel,T (2751) USSR 47/(465) 1989 (6) ½-½]
5...Nc6 6.c3 0-0 7.Bb3 a6 8.Nbd2 Ba7 The old main line.The old main line.
9.h3 h6 10.Re1 Nh5



11.Nxe5? -2.21/22 **Qh4-+** **12.Nef3N** -3.14/21
[Vorgänger: 12.Ng6? -6.72/22 12.d3-d4 -1.74 Qxf2+ 13.Kh1 Bxh3 14.Rg1 Ng3+ -3.01/5 *(⌓14...Bg4* -6.34/22 *15.Qe1 Qf6)* 15.Kh2-+ Ne2 16.d4 -7.06/23 *(⌓16.Qe1* -4.46/22 *Qxg1+ 17.Qxg1 Bxg1+ 18.Kxh3)* 16...Qg3+ -3.41/5 *(⌓16...Ncxd4* -7.06/23 (-> ...Qf2-g3+) *17.Ne7+ Kh7)* 17.Kh1-+ Nxg1 18.Qxg1 Qxg6 19.gxh3 Qxg1+ 20.Kxg1 Doll,R (1808)-Heutling,E (1873) GER-ch U16 Girls 2020 (6) 0-1]
[⌓12.d4 -2.06/23 dxe5 13.Nf3]
12...Qxf2+-+ Black has a decisive advantage.
[12...Bxf2+ 13.Kf1 Qg3 14.Re2∓]
13.Kh2? -5.15/24
[13.Kh1 -3.21/22 was necessary.]
13...Qg3+ 14.Kh1



Bxh3! 15.Re2 And now Nd2-f1! would win. **15...Nf4?→** -0.29/22 Black attacks.
[15...Ne5-+ -4.64/20 16.d4 Nf4]
16.Qf1? -4.41/19 **Bg4 17.d4 Rae8 18.Nc4?** -6.48/21
[18.Re3 -2.66/19]
18...Nxe2 Black is clearly winning. **19.Qxe2 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 Qe1+ 21.Kh2 Rxe4 22.Bf4 Qh4+ 23.Kg1 Qxf4** Black took control after the opening. Weighted Error Value: White=1.51/ Black=0.49
0-1

C55

□ **Burtasova,Anna** **2241**
■ **Bubnova,Uliana** **1781**
Swiss Queens Wed #23 blitz (9) 3.7.24
[Kitty Kat]

C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 and Max Lange Attack
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.d3 Be7
[4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Nb6 *(6...Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.d4 Nb6 9.Bb5 0-0 10.dxe5 Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 fxe5 13.Nc3 Bg4 14.Re1 Bh4 15.Be3 Bf5 16.Na4 Bxc2 17.Nxb6 cxb6 18.Bc4+ Kh8 19.Bd5 Bd3 20.Bxb7 Rab8 21.Bd5* 3.c3 ♗g7 4.♗g5 30545 (2123)-Hauge,L (2379) Cappelle op 25th 2009 (3) 0-1 *)* 7.Bb5 Bd6 8.d4 e4 9.Re1 f5 10.Bg5 Qd7 11.c4 0-0 12.c5 exf3 13.cxb6 Qf7 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Qxf3 axb6 16.Nc3 f4 17.Qxc6 Bd7 18.Qd5 Qxd5 19.Nxd5 Rojas Keim,L (2680)-Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2738) Metz op 28th 2010 (5.5) 1-0]
5.0-0 0-0 6.Bb3N
[6.Nc3 d6 7.a3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nd4 10.Qd1 c6 11.f4 exf4 12.Rxf4 d5 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Ba2 Bc5 15.Kh1 Re8 16.Rf1 Ne6 17.g4 d4 18.Na4 Be7 19.g5 Nd7 20.Rxf7 Bd6 Edighoffer,H-Melton,R APCT King ch-1 1996 ½-½]
6...d6 6...d5 is not played anymore. 6...d5 wird inzwischen seltener gespielt.
7.c3 Kh8 8.Nbd2 Ng4 9.h3 Nh6 10.Nc4N White is better.
[Vorgänger: 10.d4 exd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.cxd4 f5 13.e5 d5 14.Nf3 0.27/19 *(14.f4!± 0.64/18* might be stronger. *)* 14...f4= 15.Bd2 c6 16.Qe1 Sandu,M (2249)-Atalik,E (2420) ROM-chT (Women) 2021 (8.2) 0-1]
10...f5 11.Bxh6 gxh6 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Ne3 Bg6 14.Nd5 -0.19/19
[Better is 14.Bd5± 0.53/16]
14...Bf6 0.34/17
[14...Bh5= -0.19/19]
15.Nh2 -0.16/18
[15.Nxf6± 0.34/17 Qxf6 16.Qd2]
15...Bg7= 16.f4 Ne7 -0.04/19
[16...Na5∓ -0.44/20 deserves consideration.]
17.Nxe7

[17.fxe5 simplifies Rxf1+ 18.Nxf1 dxe5 19.Nxe7 Qxe7 20.Qe2]

17...Qxe7 18.fxe5 -0.56/20

[18.Qe2= -0.09/19]

18...Bxe5∓ 19.d4 Bg7 0.17/19

[19...Bf4∓ -0.66/19 20.Kh1 c6]

20.Qg4 -0.55/19

[20.Re1= 0.17/19 Qh4 21.Nf3]

20...h5 -0.17/21

[20...Qe3+∓ -0.55/19 21.Kh1 Qd2]

21.Qg3= Bf6 0.17/20

[21...Qe2∓ -0.39/21]

22.Rae1 Qg7 23.Nf3 Rae8 0.33/19

[23...Bd3= -0.13/20 24.Qxg7+ Bxg7]

24.Rxe8± Rxe8 25.Ng5 Bxg5 26.Qxg5 c6 27.d5 0.24/22

[27.h4± 0.60/19]

27...c5= 28.Qf4 Rd8 1.24/20

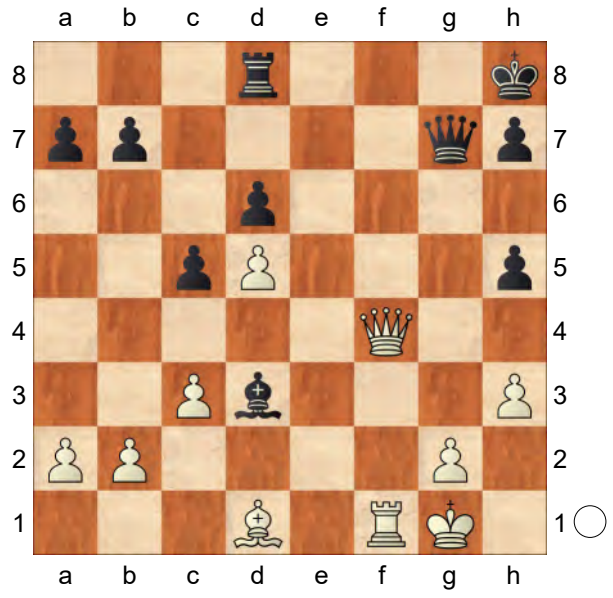
[28...Bd3!= 0.01/20 29.Rf3 Re1+ 30.Kh2 Be4 31.Qf8+ Qxf8 32.Rxf8+ Kg7]

29.Bd1 0.41/20

[29.Re1± 1.24/20]

29...Bd3? 2.27/20

[29...Qe7± 0.41/20]



30.Rf2 Bg6 31.Kh2 0.56/20

[31.Bxh5± 1.51/19 Bxh5 32.Qh4]

31...Qe7 1.53/21

[31...Qe5± 0.56/20]

32.Bc2 0.07/20

[32.Bf3± 1.53/21]

32...Kg7! 33.Bxg6 hxg6 Endgame. KQR-KQR **34.Qf3 Qe5+ 35.Kg1 Re8** Active counter play! **36.c4**

[36.Qf7+ looks sharper. Kh6 37.Rf6 Qg5 38.Rf1]

36...Qe7 37.b3

[37.h4 feels hotter. Qe1+ 38.Kh2 Qe7 39.g3]

37...Kh7 0.56/23

[37...Qe1+= 0.01/23 38.Kh2 Qe5+ 39.Kh1 Qe7]

38.Kh2 0.01/23

[38.Qf6± 0.56/23]

38...Kh6 0.54/23

[Black should try 38...Qe5+= 0.01/23 39.Kh1 Qa1+ 40.Rf1 Re1 41.Qf7+ Kh8 42.Qf8+ Kh7 43.Qf7+ Kh6 44.Qf8+ Kh7 45.Qf7+]

39.Qf4+ 0.01/25

[39.Qc3± 0.54/23]

39...Kg7

[39...Kh7 simplifies 40.Qf6 Kh6 41.Qxe7 Rxe7 42.Rf6 Re2]

40.Kg3 b6 41.Kh2 a5

[41...Qe5 simplifies 42.Qxe5+ Rxe5 43.Kg3 a6]

42.a4 Rd8

[42...Qe5 simplifies 43.Qxe5+ Rxe5 44.Kg3 Re3+]

43.g3 Re8 44.Kg2 Rd8

[44...Qe4+ simplifies 45.Qxe4 Rxe4 46.h4 Re1]

45.Kf3? -7.27/27

[45.g4= 0.01/25]

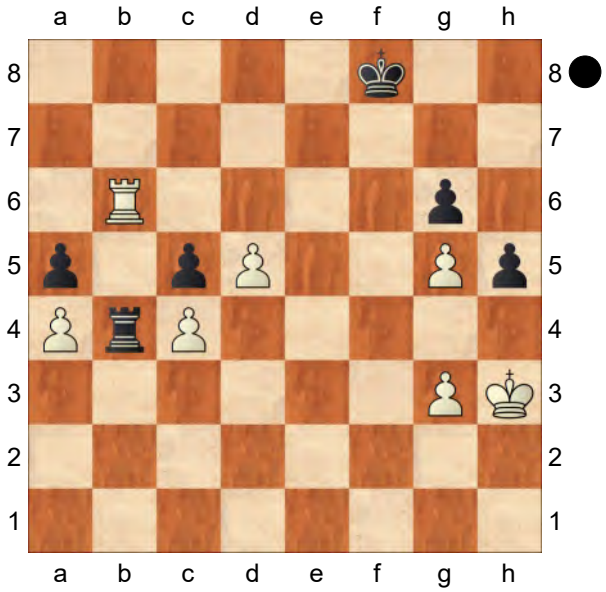
45...Re8? 0.01/21

[45...Rf8-+ -7.27/27 46.Qxf8+ Qxf8+ 47.Kg2 Qe7]

46.Kg2 Rd8

[46...Qe4+ simplifies 47.Qxe4 Rxe4

48.Kf3 Re1]
47.h4 Re8 48.Kh2 Rd8 49.Rf3 White wants to play Rf3-e3.
[49.Qg5 simplifies Qxg5 50.hxg5 Rf8 51.Rxf8 Kxf8 52.Kh3]
49...Qe2+ 50.Rf2 Qe7 Prevents Qf4-f7+. **51.Qg5 Qxg5 52.hxg5** With the idea Rf2-f6. KR-KR **52...Re8 53.Rf6 Re2+ 54.Kh3 Rb2 55.Rxd6 Rxb3 56.Rd7+ Kf8 57.Rb7 Rb4 58.Rxb6?** -#17/23



Rxb6 KR-KP **59.g4 Ke7 60.gxh5 gxh5** (-> ...Rb6-b4) **61.Kh4 Kf7 62.Kxh5 Kg7 63.Kg4 Kg6 64.Kf4 Rb4 65.Ke5 Rxc4** KR-K3P **66.Kd6 Rc1 67.Kc6 c4** -14.79/24
[⌓67...Kxg5 -#18/22 68.Kb6 Kf6 69.d6 Ke6 70.Kc6 c4 *(70...Rd1 71.Kxc5 Rc1+* Deflection *72.Kd4 Kxd6 73.Kd3 Kd5 74.Ke3 Rc4 75.Ke2 Rxa4 76.Kd3 Rc4 77.Ke2 a4 78.Kf3 a3 79.Kf2 a2 80.Kg3 a1Q 81.Kg2 Qa3 82.Kg1 Rc2 83.Kh1 Qc1#)* 71.Kc5 c3 72.Kc4 Kxd6 73.Kd4 Ke6 74.Kc4 Ke5 75.Kd3 Kd5 76.Ke3 Rd1 *(76...Re1+ 77.Kd3 Re4 78.Kxc3 Rd4 79.Kb3 Rc4 80.Kb2 Kd4 81.Kb3 Kd3 82.Kb2 Rb4+ 83.Ka2 Kc3 84.Ka3 Kc2 85.Ka2 Rxa4#)* 77.Kf4 c2 78.Kg5 Rg1+ *(78...c1B+ 79.Kf5 Rg1 80.Kf6 Rf1+ 81.Kg7 Ke6 82.Kg6 Rh1 83.Kg7 Rg1+ 84.Kh7 Kf7 85.Kh8 Rh1#; 78...c1Q+ 79.Kf6 Qh6+ 80.Ke7 Qg7+ 81.Ke8 Rh1 82.Kd8 Rh8#)* 79.Kf6 c1Q *(79...c1B 80.Kf5 Rg5+ 81.Kf6 Kd6 82.Kf7 Bb2 83.Ke8 Rf5 84.Kd8 Rf8#)* 80.Kf7 Qf1+ 81.Ke7 Rg8 82.Kd7 Qf7#]
68.d6 c3 Black mates. **69.d7 Rd1**
[69...Kxg5? loses. 70.d8Q+ *(70.d8R Kf4=)* 70...Kg4 71.Qd5+- *(71.Qxa5 Kf4+-)*]
70.Kb5 c2 71.Kxa5 c1Q Both players deserved the win here.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.43/ Black=0.33
0-1

		C54
□	**Burtasova,Anna**	**2241**
■	**Tripurambika,V**	**1723**
Swiss Queens Wed #23 blitz (7)		3.7.24

[Kitty Kat]

C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4 and 5 d3
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.c3N
[6.a4 a6 7.Be3 Bxe3 8.fxe3 0-0 9.Qe1 Ne7 10.Nh4 Be6 11.Nd2 Qd7 12.Qg3 Bxc4 13.Nxc4 Qg4 14.Qe1 Qe6 15.b3 g6 16.a5 Kg7 17.Nf3 h6 18.Nh4 Neg8 19.h3 Rae8 20.Qb4 Qc8 Sevian,S (2698)-Lazavik, D (2553) Aimchess Rapid Div 2 W 2023 (6.2) ½-½]
[6.h3 h6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Na4 Bb6 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.Bd2 Ne7 11.Nh4

Be6 12.Bb3 Bxb3 13.axb3 Qd7 14.Qf3 Ng6 15.Rxa8 Rxa8 16.Nxg6 fxg6 17.Bxh6 gxh6 18.Qxf6 Qf7 19.Qxf7+ Kxf7 20.f4 exf4 Causil Pastrana,X (1564)-Martinez Serna,M (1621) Juegos Univers 31st (Women) op 2024 (4) ½-½]

[6.Nc3 a6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.Bxd5 0-0 9.h3 Ne7 10.Bb3 Ng6 11.Bg5 Qe8 12.c3 Ba7 13.Re1 Bd7 14.d4 h6 15.Be3 Qe7 16.Qd2 Bc6 17.Rad1 Qf6 18.Qc2 Rfe8 19.Bd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 e4 Orfila,A (1890)-Sprott,G (2110) 145/77 Biel 2020 (3) 0-1]

[6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3 h5 9.h4 Bg4 10.c3 Qd7 11.d4 exd4 12.e5 dxe5 13.Bxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Qf5 15.Nxg4 hxg4 16.Bd3 Qd5 17.b4 0-0-0 18.c4 Qc6 19.bxc5 Rxh4 20.f3 Rdh8 Part Chapter-Games Part 5 Chapter 2]

6...0-0 **7.Nbd2** 7.Re1 is the modern continuation .7.Te1 ist die moderne Fortsetzung. **7...h6** **8.h3** **Bb6** **9.Bb3** **a6** **10.Nc4** **Be6N** 0.61/19

[Vorgänger: 10...Ba7 11.Ne3 Ne7 12.Nh4 d5 0.69/18 *(12...Kh7= 0.21/17* might be stronger.*)* 13.Qf3 0.22/18 *(13.exd5± 0.69/18 Re8 14.Re1)* 13...c6= 14.g4 Nh7 15.Nef5 Nxf5 16.Nxf5 dxe4 17.dxe4 Bxf5 18.gxf5 Shah,J (1905)-Bharadia,Y (1643) IND-ch U13 33rd 2019 (11) ½-½]

[10...Ba7= 0.13/19 deserves consideration.]

11.Nxb6± **cxb6** **12.Bc2** **d5** **13.Qe2** 0.09/17

[13.d4± 0.52/19]

13...d4 0.89/18

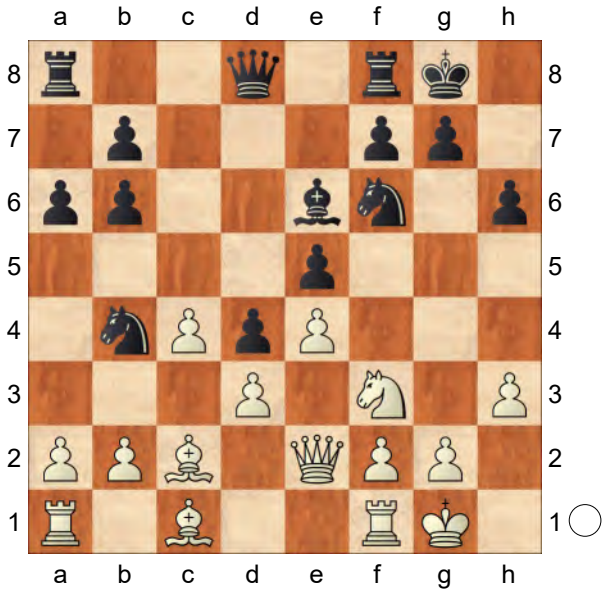
[13...dxe4= 0.09/17 14.dxe4 b5]

14.c4 -0.31/17

[14.cxd4± 0.89/18 exd4 15.Bf4]

14...Nb4? 1.25/20

[14...b5∓ -0.31/17 stays ahead.]



15.Bd1 0.00/19

[15.Nxe5± 1.25/20 Hoping for f2-f4. Nxc2 16.Qxc2]

15...b5 0.99/18

[15...Nd7= 0.00/19]

16.a3 0.12/20

[16.Nxe5± 0.99/18 Black must now prevent a2-a3. bxc4 17.Nxc4 *(17.dxc4 d3±)*]

16...Nc6=

[16...Nxd3 looks sharper. 17.Qxd3 Bxc4 18.Qb1 Bxf1 19.Kxf1 d3]

17.c5 -0.72/18

[17.cxb5= 0.05/18 axb5 18.Nh2]

17...b6 0.32/18

[17...Nd7∓ -0.72/18]

18.cxb6± **Qxb6** **19.Nh4** **b4** 0.70/17

[19...Nd7= 0.25/17]

20.Nf5 -0.10/19

[20.f4± 0.70/17]

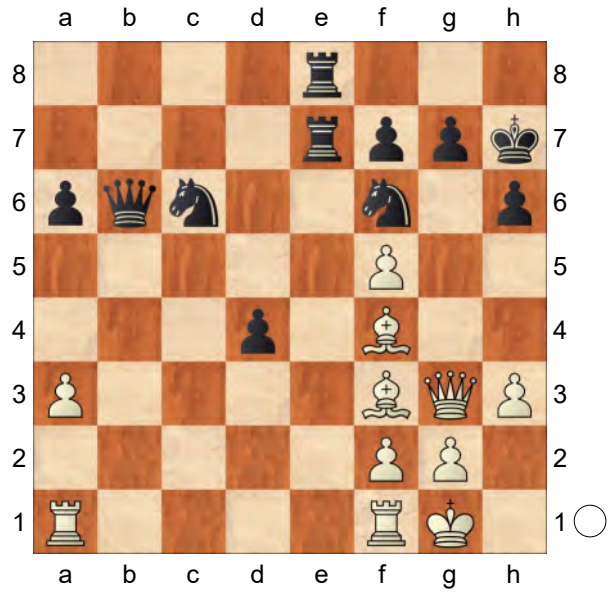
20...Bxf5= **21.exf5** **bxa3** **22.bxa3** **Rfe8** 0.54/18

[22...Rac8= -0.08/17]

23.Qf3 -0.64/18

[23.Ba4± 0.54/18]

23...e4 24.dxe4 Rxe4 0.45/22
[Black should try 24...Rac8∓ -0.36/20]
25.Qg3± Kh7 1.05/19
[Black should play 25...Ne7± 0.40/20]
26.Bf3± Re7 27.Bf4 Rae8? 4.43/22
[27...Rc8± 0.84/19 is a better chance.]



28.Rab1+- Qc5 29.Rfc1? 0.04/21
[29.Bd6+- 4.42/20 Qxf5 30.Bxc6]
29...Qxf5= 30.Bxc6→ 0.01/21
White has some attack. This pair of bishops is nice.
[30.Bd6± 0.54/21 Ne5 31.Bxe7 Nxf3+ 32.Qxf3 Qxf3 33.gxf3 Rxe7 34.Rb4]
30...Rc8? 4.42/20
[30...Nh5= 0.01/21 31.Qg4 Qxg4 Remove Defender 32.hxg4 Nxf4]
31.Bf3+- Rxc1+ 32.Rxc1 d3 33.Rd1 Rd7 34.Bg4 Nxg4 35.hxg4 Qd5 36.f3 2.48/19
[⌓36.Qf3 4.20/19]
36...Qb3 37.Rd2 Qb1+ 38.Kh2 Qa1 39.Bd6 Qc3 40.Bb4 Qc1 4.90/23
[⌓40...Qf6 3.25/20 41.Rd1 Qd8]
41.Qe5 White is clearly winning.
41...Qc7 42.Qxc7 Rxc7 43.Rxd3 Rc3 44.Rxc3
Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/ Black=0.74
1-0

C50

□ **Dolma,Namgay**
■ **Besra,Mesgena Yoseph** **1557**
Olympiad Women-45 (6.76) 16.09.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d3 Bc5 5.h3
[5.f4 d6 6.f5 Na5 7.Bg5 c6 8.Qf3 b5 9.Bb3 b4 10.Na4 Nxb3 11.axb3 Bxg1 12.Rxg1 Rb8 13.g4 Qe7 14.Qf2 c5 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Nxc5 dxc5 17.Qxc5 a6 18.Qc7 Qh4+ 19.Rg3 0-0 Firouzja,A (2723)-Artemiev,V (2731) Tata Steel-A 82nd 2020 (3) 1-0]
5...0-0N
[5...Na5 6.Nge2 Nxc4 7.dxc4 d6 8.Qd3 Be6 9.b3 Nd7 10.Be3 a6 11.Bxc5 Nxc5 12.Qe3 0-0 13.g4 c6 14.Rd1 b5 15.f4 Qh4+ 16.Kd2 exf4 17.Nxf4 bxc4 18.Kc1 cxb3 19.axb3 Rfd8 20.g5 Garcia Carey,O (2249)-Berdayes Ason,D (2507) Velez op 10th 2023 (2) 0-1]
6.Nf3 h6 7.0-0 a6 8.Nd5 Re8 9.Be3 d6 The position is equal. **10.d4** -1.29/19
[10.Nxf6+= 0.20/18 Qxf6 11.Nd2]
10...exd4∓ 11.Bxd4 -2.39/20
[11.Nxd4∓ -1.19/19 was worth a try. Nxe4 *(11...Rxe4 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.b3∓)* 12.Nf3]
11...Bxd4 -1.15/18
[11...Rxe4 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Qd2±]
[11...Nxe4 12.Bxc5 Nxc5 13.a4∓]

[11...Nxd4-+ -2.39/20 12.Nxd4 Nxe4 *(12...Rxe4? 13.c3-+)*]

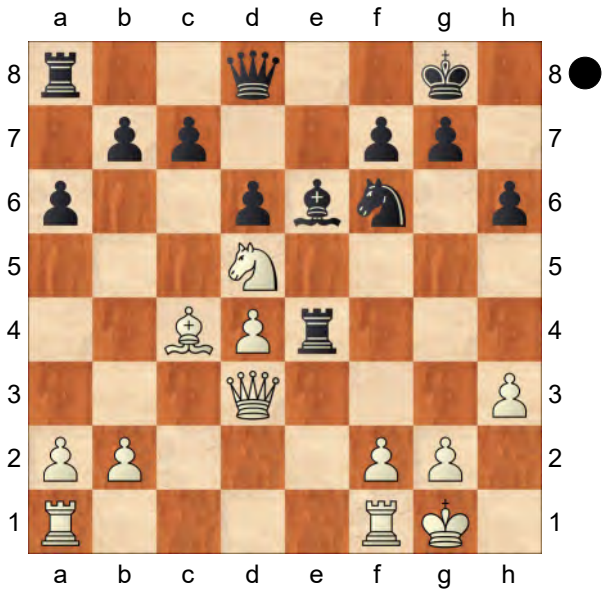
12.Nxd4 Rxe4 13.c3 -1.63/19

[13.Nxc6∓ -1.02/21 keeps fighting. bxc6 14.Ne3]

13...Nxd4-+ 14.cxd4 Be6 -1.06/21

[⌓14...c6 -1.60/19 15.Nc3 Re8]

15.Qd3



Strongly threatening Nd5xf6+. **15...Rh4**

[15...Bxd5 16.Bxd5 Rf4 17.Bxb7±]

16.Nxf6+ Qxf6 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Qc3 c5 Black is more active. **19.dxc5 Qxc3 20.bxc3 dxc5∓** Endgame. KRR-KRR

21.Rfe1 Kf7 22.Kh2 -1.66/22

[22.a4∓ -1.02/19 might work better.]

22...Rc4 23.Red1 Kf6 -1.42/20

[Not 23...Rxc3 24.Rd7+ Kf6 25.Rxb7=]

[23...Ke7-+ -1.84/19 24.Rd3 Rd8]

24.Rd7 b5

[Much less strong is 24...Rxc3 25.Rxb7 Rc2 26.Rb6∓]

25.Rd3 -2.14/19

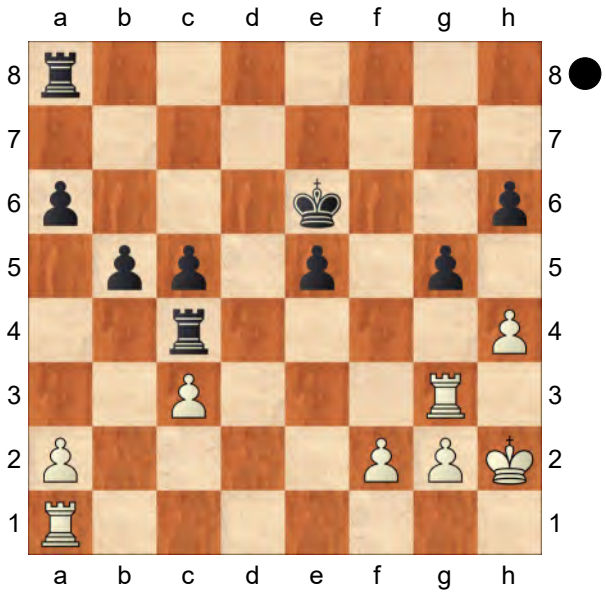
[25.Re1∓ -1.46/20]

25...e5 26.Rf3+ -2.01/19

[26.Rad1∓ -1.51/19]

26...Ke6-+ 27.Rg3 g5 28.h4? -4.03/20

[28.Rd3 -2.07/20]



28...Rxh4+ 29.Rh3 Rxh3+ 30.gxh3 KR-KR **30...Rf8 31.Kg3 Rf4 32.Rc1 Rc4 33.a3 b4 34.Kf3 Rxc3+ 35.Rxc3 bxc3 36.Ke2 e4 37.Kd1 Kd5 38.Kc2 Kc4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.68/ Black=0.15 (very precise)

0-1

C50

□ **Kosteniuk,Alexandra 2501**

■ **Devanshi,Rathi 1559**

Swiss Queens Wed #2 blitz (1) 07.02.24

[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Nf3N

[5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 exf4 7.Bxf4 Bg4 *(7...Be6 8.Bb5 a6 9.Ba4 b5 10.Bb3 Nd4 11.Qd2 0-0 12.Ne2 Nxe2 13.Qxe2 Qe8 14.c3 Bxb3 15.axb3 a5 16.Bg5 Nd7 17.d4 Bb6 18.0-0 h6 19.Bh4 c6 20.Bg3 Qe6 21.Nh4 g6 22.Qd2* Venkatesh,M (2470)-

Visakh,N (2566) Commonwealth-ch 2022 (7) 0-1; *7...0-0 8.Na4 d5 9.Nxc5 dxc4 10.dxc4 Qe7* 3. d3 #9-N,N Lifetime Repertoires: Jan Gustafsson's) 8.Qd2 Na5 9.Bg5 Nxc4 10.dxc4 h6 11.Bh4 Be6 12.Qd3 g5 13.Bg3 Nh5 14.0-0-0 Qd7 15.Nd5 0-0-0 16.Nd4 c6 17.Ne3 Rhe8 18.Kb1 Qe7 19.Rde1 Nf4 Kosteniuk,A (2557)-Lagno,K (2547) Wch Blitz (Women) 2017 (16) 1-0]

[5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 d6 7.Na4 Bb6 8.Nxb6 axb6 9.f3 Na5 10.Ne2 Nxc4 11.dxc4 Be6 12.b3 g5 13.Bf2 Nh5 14.Nc3 Ng7 15.Qd2 f5 16.exf5 Nxf5 17.0-0-0 Qe7 18.Kb1 Nh4 19.Nb5 Rd8 4.g3 0-0 5.♗g2 d5-Valenzuela Gomez,F 6: World Championship Match 1985]

5...0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Na4 7.h3 is becoming the main line. 7.h3 wird zur Hauptvariante. **7...Bb6 8.a3 Bg4 9.h3** The position is equal. **9...Bh5 10.c3N** Prevents Nc6-d4.

[Vorgänger: 10.Nxb6 axb6 11.c3 0.00/19 *(11.g4± 0.47/19 Nxg4 12.hxg4 Bxg4 13.c3)* 11...Ne7 0.65/16 *(11...d5= 0.00/19 12.exd5 Nxd5)* 12.Bg5 Nd7 13.g4 Bg6 14.Nh4 Qe8 1.06/17 *(14...Kh8± 0.60/17)* 15.Nf5 Nc6 16.b4 Bxf5 1.42/18 *(⌓16...Kh8 0.76/17)* 17.gxf5 Murzin,V (2306)-Shao,Q RUS-CHN Junior rapid 2018 (7.3) 1-0]

10...d5 11.Nxb6 axb6 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Re1 Re8 14.g4 Bg6 15.Bg5 Qd6 16.Nh4 Nf4 0.44/22

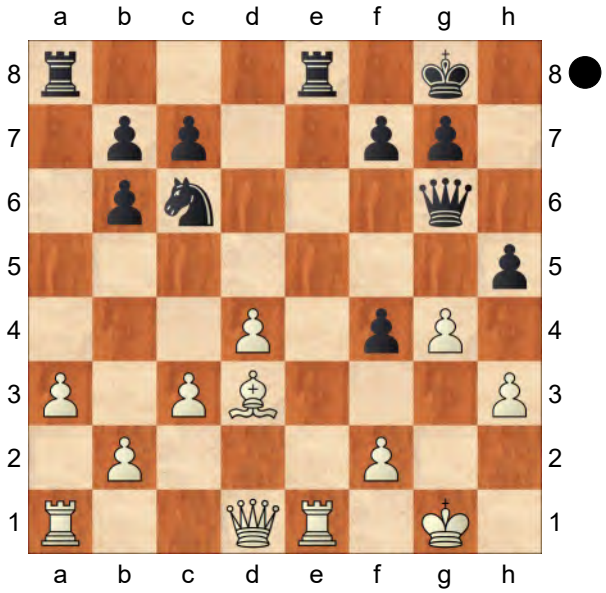
[16...f6= -0.01/18 17.Nxg6 hxg6]

17.Bxf4± exf4 18.Nxg6 Qxg6 0.99/21

[18...hxg6± 0.56/20 should be considered. 19.d4 Rxe1+ 20.Qxe1 Kf8]

19.d4 h5 20.Bd3? -5.13/23

[20.Qf3± 0.80/21 stays on course.]



20...Qg5 0.54/21

[20...Rxe1+-+ -5.13/23 21.Qxe1 Qxd3]

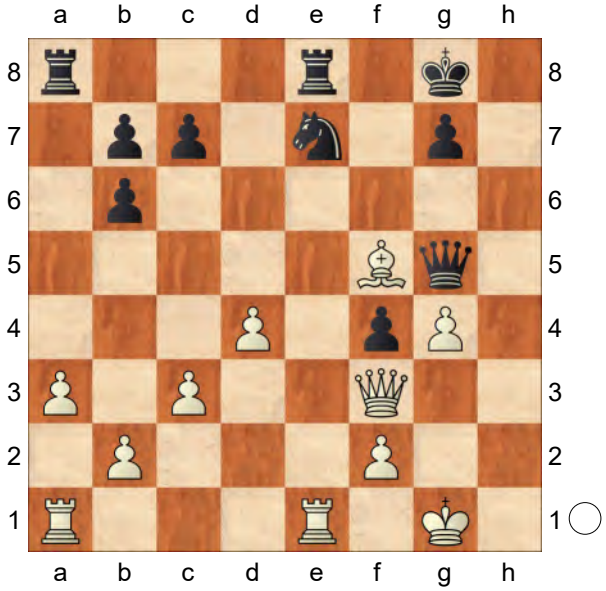
21.Qf3 hxg4 22.hxg4 f5? 3.19/21

23.Bxf5+-

[23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Qd5+ *(24.Bxf5 Nd8+-)* 24...Kf8+-]

23...Ne7? 6.98/21

[23...g6 3.19/21]



Black is weak on the light squares **24.Be6+** White is clearly winning. **24...Kh8 25.Re5 Qh4 26.Rh5+** Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/ Black=0.92

[Worse is 26.Qxf4 Ng6 27.Qf5 Nxe5 28.dxe5 Rf8=]

1-0

C24

☐ **9) Black: 1.e4 e5 Sidelines**

■ **Bishop Opening 3.d4 #4**

Opening Compass for Black and White

[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.TREBITSCH

The tournament took place in Wien from 10 til 26 January 1907, though Trebitsch had died in the past month. Participants lived in Austria-Hungary and Germany.

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 This is called the Bishop's Opening. **2...Nf6 3.d4** White is challenging our center. We need to react accurately. **3...exd4 4.Nf3**

[4.Qxd4 is similar to 2.d4 exd4 3. Qxd4 lines we've seen before: Nc6! 5.Qe3 Bb4+! $15 Black is ahead in development and castling followed by ...d5 is unstoppable.]

4...Bb4+ The bishop comes out with a check. **5.c3 dxc3 6.Nxc3**

[6.bxc3 d5 7.exd5 Bc5 8.Qe2+ Qe7 9.Qxe7+ Kxe7 10.Bf4 Bd6 11.Bg3 Rd8 12.Bh4 h6 13.Bxf6+ Kxf6 14.0-0 Bf5 15.Nbd2 Nd7 16.Rfe1 Re8 17.Nd4 Bh7 18.Bb5 Rxe1+ 19.Rxe1 Nb6 20.Ne4+ Bxe4 Arbau,E (1933)-Malaniuk,V (2527) Corsica Masters op 14th 2010 (5) 0-1]

6...0-0 Black is slightly better. **7.Bg5N**

[After 7.e5 the typical idea d5! $15 works again.]

[7.Ng5 Nc6 8.0-0 h6 9.Nxf7 Rxf7 10.Bxf7+ Kxf7 11.Qb3+ Kf8 12.e5 Bxc3 13.Qxc3 Nh7 14.Be3 d5 15.Rad1 Kg8 16.f4 Bf5 17.Qb3 Be4 18.Qxb7 Ne7 19.Bxa7 Qc8 20.Qxc8+ Nxc8 21.Bd4 Rxa2 Mieses,J-Perlis,J Wien Trebitsch Memorial-01 1907 (1) 1-0]

[7.0-0 Bxc3 8.bxc3 Nxe4 9.Re1 d5 10.Ba3 Nxc3 11.Qc2 dxc4 12.Bxf8 Qxf8 13.Qxc3 Be6 14.Nd4 Bd5 15.Re5 c6 16.Rae1 C 21/01 1999]

7...Bxc3+!? 8.bxc3 d6 9.0-0 h6 10.Bh4 Nbd7∓ Black will complete development after Nd7-e5. Useful moves are Re8 and Qe7. Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening. Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

C24

☐ **9) Black: 1.e4 e5 Sidelines**

■ **Bishop Opening 3.d4 #6**

Opening Compass for Black and White

[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 This is called the Bishop's Opening. **2...Nf6 3.d4** White is challenging our center. We need to react accurately. **3...exd4 4.Nf3**

[4.Qxd4 is similar to 2.d4 exd4 3. Qxd4 lines we've seen before: Nc6! 5.Qe3 Bb4+! $15 Black is ahead in development and castling followed by ...d5 is unstoppable.]

4...Bb4+ The bishop comes out with a check. **5.c3 dxc3 6.0-0** Threatens to win with e4-e5.

[6.bxc3 d5 7.exd5 Bc5 8.Qe2+ Qe7

9.Qxe7+ Kxe7 10.Bf4 Bd6 11.Bg3 Rd8 12.Bh4 h6 13.Bxf6+ Kxf6 14.0-0 Bf5 15.Nbd2 Nd7 16.Rfe1 Re8 17.Nd4 Bh7 18.Bb5 Rxe1+ 19.Rxe1 Nb6 20.Ne4+ Bxe4 Arbau,E (1933)-Malaniuk,V (2527) Corsica Masters op 14th 2010 (5) 0-1]

[6.Nxc3 0-0 7.Bg5 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 d6 9.0-0 h6 10.Bh4 Nbd7 9) Black: 1.e4 e5 Sidelines-Bishop Opening 3.d4 #4 Opening Compass for Black and White 2023]

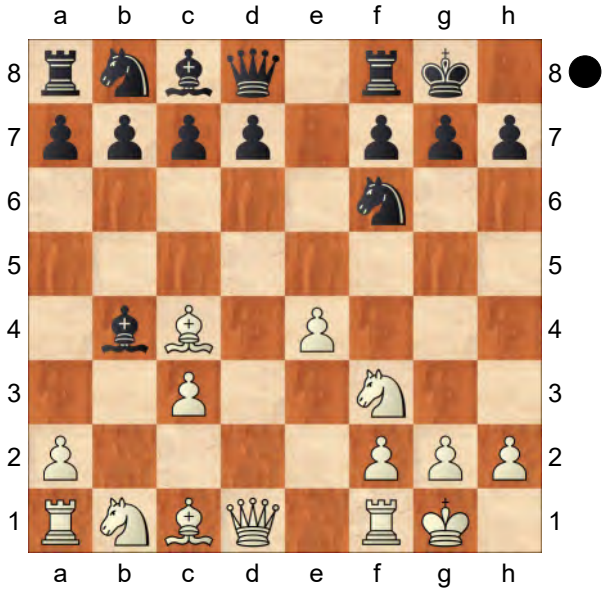
6...0-0!?

[6...Nxe4 7.Re1 f5 8.Nxc3 *(8.bxc3?! d5±)* 8...Bxc3 9.bxc3+-]

7.bxc3N

[7.e5 Ne4 8.Bd5 Nc5 9.bxc3 Ba5 10.Ng5 Ne6 11.Qh5 Nxg5 12.Bxg5 Qe8 13.Bf6 Horowitz,I-Allen,J New York (USA) 348577 1939 1-0]

[7.Qb3 cxb2 8.Bxb2 d5 9.exd5 Bd6 15) 2.Bc4 Bishop's Opening-2. Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nf3 Bb4]



7...d5! Consider counter-attacking when faced with a threat! **8.Bb3**

[After 8.exd5 Bc5!? $15 Black's pieces will get out naturally with ... Bg4 and ...Nbd7, while there is no e4-e5 threat anymore.]

[Meanwhile, after 8.cxb4 dxc4∓ Black is better due to their extra pawn and easy development.]

8...Be7 9.e5 -0.58/19

[9.exd5 Bg4 followed by ...Nbd7 and ...Re8 once again gives Black easy development.]

[9.exd5= -0.15/20 feels stronger. Re8 10.Bb2]

9...Ne4!? -0.16/21

[9...Nfd7∓ -0.58/19 was preferrable.]

10.Bxd5= Nc5∞ Nothing is stopping Black's development. Useful moves would be Bg4, or Be6, or c6, or Nc6, or Nbd7.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)

C24

☐ **9) Black: 1.e4 e5 Sidelines**

■ **Bishop Opening 3.d3 #2**

Opening Compass for Black and White

[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 This is called the Bishop's Opening. **2...Nf6 3.d3** The idea behind this line is to push f2-f4 and only then develop the knight to f3. **3...c6!?** White did not attack our e5-pawn, so we can afford to fight for the center with this move. It may look like a loss of tempo. However, on the next move d7-d5 will come with a tempo gain, restoring the tempo balance of the position. **4.Nf3** The pawn goes to the center with a tempo. Now, the main challenge for Black is to hold that center. White is ready to put enormous pressure

on it with Bg5 and Nc3. That is why it is crucial to memorize several more moves. Bb3 **4...a5N**

[4...d5 5.Bb3

A) 5...Bd6 6.Nc3 dxe4 *(6...d4 7.Ne2 Bg4 8.Ng5 0-0 9.f3 Bh5 10.g4 Bg6 11.h4 h5 12.Ng3 Bb4+ 13.Kf2 Nbd7 14.a3 Ba5 15.Ba2 Rc8 16.Qe2 c5 17.Nf5 a6 18.Rg1 Rc6 19.gxh5 Nxh5 20.f4 Nxf4 21.Bxf4* Andrew,M-Taylor,J BPCTC (4) corr 1998 0-1*)* 7.Ng5 0-0 8.Ncxe4 Nxe4 9.Nxe4 Bf5 10.0-0 Na6 11.Nxd6 Qxd6 12.Qf3 Be6 13.Qg3 Bxb3 14.axb3 Nb4 15.c3 Nxd3 16.Rd1 Rad8 17.Bg5 f6 18.Be3 a6 19.Rd2 Rfe8 20.Rad1 Buchicchio,G (2770)-Hantel,T (2790) 6/656 Amsterdam 1968 (4) ½-½;

B) 5...a5 6.a4 Bd6 7.exd5 cxd5 8.Nc3 Be6 9.Bg5 d4 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Nb5 Bxb3 12.cxb3 Bb4+ 13.Nd2 Nc6 14.f4 Qe7 15.0-0 Bxd2 16.Qxd2 0-0-0 17.Rae1 Kb8 18.Na3 Qb4 19.Qd1 Rhe8 20.fxe5 Kasimdzhanov,R (2657)-Bareev,E (2643) FIDE World Cup 2019 (1.1) 1-0;

C) 5...Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bd6 7.Nc3 dxe4 8.Ng5 0-0 9.Ncxe4 Be7 10.h4 Na6 11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.Qh5 Bxg5 13.hxg5 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6:-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.]

5.Nc3

[We are threatening to trap the bishop with a5-a4 (5.Nxe5?? a4 wins the bishop). That is why this move is NOT losing a tempo!]

[5.a4 Bb4+!? This check prevents the Nc3 and Bg5 set-up. We are securing our center. 6.c3 Bd6 Now there is no Nc3 followed by Bg5. Our center will stay where it is. exd5 cxd5 7.Bg5 White would be in better shape if Nb1-c3 was possible, but that move is illegal. Now, Black will complete development with ...O-O and ...Nc6. 9) Black: 1.e4 e5 Sidelines-Bishop Opening 3.d3 #3 Opening Compass for Black and White 2023]

[Or 5.a3 a4!? 6.Ba2 Bd6 7.Nc3 d4!? Ne2 0-0 $15 Black gained a lot of space on the queenside. White would have been better if we didn't have a pawn on a4.]

5...Bb4! 0.18/19 We are threatening to win the bishop again! The pawn on e5 is still poisoned.

[5...b5∓ -0.88/19 6.d4 bxc4 7.dxe5 Ng8]

6.a3=

[But not 6.Nxe5 d5 7.exd5 b5∓ *(7...Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 b5 9.Ba3±)*]

6...Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 This move kicks the bishop and prevents a possible a3-a4, followed by Ba3. That would have been a good diagonal for White's dark-squared bishop. Ba2 dxe4!? One of many reasonable options for Black. Nxe5 **7...0-0∞** Nbd7 After the exchange of knights our development would come easily. An uneventful encounter.

C24

☐ **9) Black: 1.e4 e5 Sidelines**

■ **Bishop Opening 3.d4 #2**

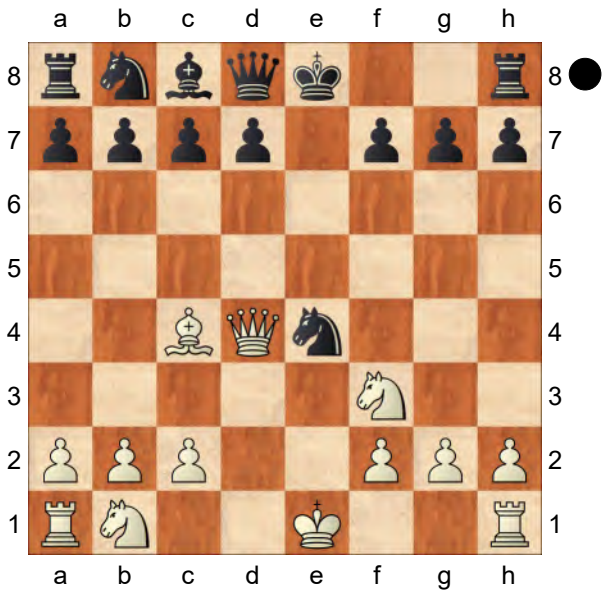
Opening Compass for Black and White

[Kity Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 This is called the Bishop's Opening. **2...Nf6 3.d4** White is challenging our center. We

need to react accurately. **3...exd4 4.Nf3**
[4.Qxd4 is similar to 2.d4 exd4 3. Qxd4 lines we've seen before: Nc6! 5.Qe3 Bb4+! $15 Black is ahead in development and castling followed by ...d5 is unstoppable.]
4...Bb4+ The bishop comes out with a check. **5.Bd2N**
[5.c3 dxc3
A) 6.bxc3 d5 *(6...Bc5 7.e5 d5 8.exf6 dxc4 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.fxg7 Re8+ 11.Be3 Bxe3 12.fxe3 Rg8 13.Nbd2 Rxg7 14.0-0 Be6 15.Nd4 Nd7 16.Rab1 b6 17.Rb2 Ke7 18.Nf5+ Bxf5 19.Rxf5 Ke6 20.Rf4 Ne5 21.Rb1* Reyes Najera,C-Pergericht,D ol Novi Sad 1990 1-0*)* 7.exd5 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 *(9.Bb3 Bg4 10.Re1 Na6 11.Bf4 Nc5 12.c4 Bd6 13.Bg5 h6 14.Be3 Nfe4 15.Nbd2 Nxd2 16.Qxd2 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Qh4 18.f4 Rae8 19.Bc2 Ne4 20.Qe2 Ng5 21.Qd3 Qg4+ 22.Kf1 Qh3+ 23.Ke2 Bxf4* Mari Ooriad,P (2215) - Lorparizangeneh,S (2454) IRI-ch sf Rasht 2015 (1) 0-1*)* 9...c6 10.dxc6 Qxd1 11.Rxd1 Nxc6 4) Bishop's Opening-2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 #2;
B) 6.Nxc3 0-0 7.Bg5 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 d6 9.0-0 h6 10.Bh4 Nbd7 9) Black: 1.e4 e5 Sidelines-Bishop Opening 3.d4 #4 Opening Compass for Black and White 2023;
C) 6.0-0 0-0!? 7.e5 The same idea again! exf6 dxc4 fxg7 Re8∓ It is often better to leave White's pawn on g7 untouched. It will actually make your king safer. Next, the queens most likely will get exchanged and then Black's pieces will get out easily. 9) Black: 1.e4 e5 Sidelines-Bishop Opening 3.d4 #5 Opening Compass for Black and White 2023]
5...Bxd2+ 6.Qxd2?
[6.Nbxd2 Defending the extra pawn. 0-0 7.0-0∓ -0.57/17 Useful moves are d7-d5 or Re8. 9) Black: 1.e4 e5 Sidelines-Bishop Opening 3.d4 #3 Opening Compass for Black and White 2023 *(7.Nxd4=* -0.21/18 *d5 8.exd5)*]
6...Nxe4
[Other moves like 6...Nc6 or]
[6...0-0 -0.08/18 6...Nf6xe4 -0.67 would have led to equality. With this pawn capture we are playing for an advantage.]
7.Qxd4



Nc3 8.94/21 **8.0-0** 4.17/18 O-O-O
[After 8.0-0 4.18/18 8.Qd4xg7 8.73 Nc6∓ 8.58/22 White has no compensation. 10...d6 or 10...d5 will be our next move. *(⌓8...Ne2+* 4.18/18 *9.Bxe2 0-0)*]
[⌓8.Qxg7 8.94/21 Qe7+ 9.Kf1 Nxb1 10.Qxh8+ Qf8 11.Qxh7]
8...c6!? 13.35/22

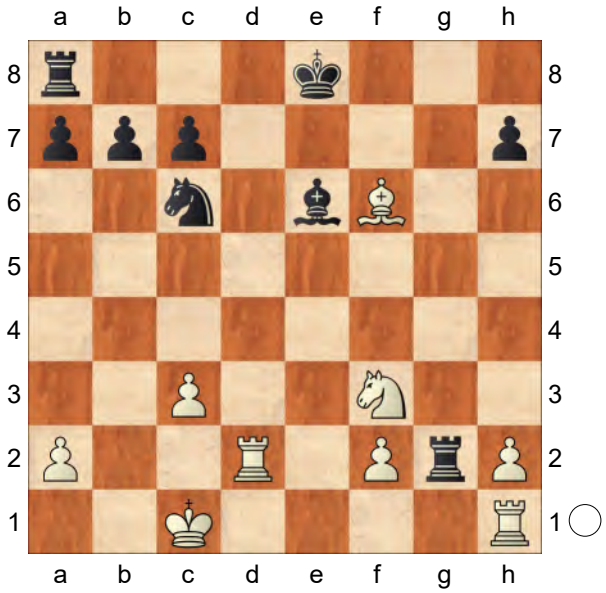
[There is nothing wrong with 8...Nc6 8.53/20 8...Nc3-e2+ 4.10 . However,]
[8...c6 is stronger. Black will occupy the center with a pawn and neutralize White's knight, bishop, and rook.]
[⌓8...Ne2+ 4.17/18 9.Bxe2 0-0]
9.Qd6∓ 4.67/21 Attempting to stop ...d5. Ne8 We chase away the queen after which d7-d5 is next. Black got outplayed after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=3.39/ Black=0.28 (precise)
[⌓9.Re1+ 13.35/22 Kf8 10.Qd6+ *(10.Qxc3 d5+-; 10.Nxc3 d6+-)* 10...Kg8 11.Nxc3 *(11.bxc3 h5+-)*]
1-0

C24

□ **Zavanelli,Max E** **2295**
■ **Nielsen,Jorgen Axel** **2288**

Reg Gillman Memorial 'E' In Friendship
[Kitty Kat]

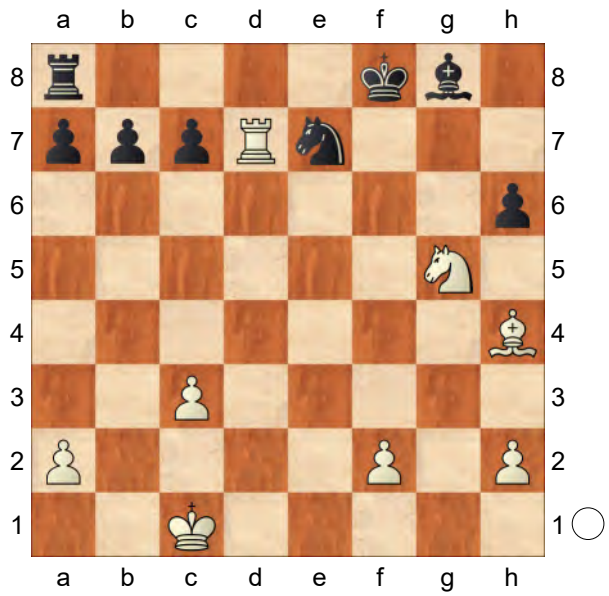
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nf3 Bc5 5.e5 d5! 6.exf6 dxc4 7.Qe2+!
[7.fxg7 Rg8 8.0-0 Rxg7∓]
7...Be6 8.fxg7 The position is equal. **8...Rg8** aiming for ...Nb8-c6! **9.Bg5N**
[9.Ng5 d3 10.Nxe6 dxe2 11.Nxd8 Kxd8 12.Bg5+ Kc8 13.Bf6 Nd7 14.Bc3 b5 15.a3 f6 16.Kxe2 Rxg7 17.g3 Kb7 18.Re1 Re8+ 19.Kf1 Rge7 20.Nd2 Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 22.Kxe1 Be7 23.Ke2 c5 Pepe,M-Ude,H 32/493 London 1980 0-1 24.h3 Kc6 25.f4 Bd8 26.Kf3 a5 27.Nf1 b4 28.Bd2 c3 29.Bc1 cxb2 30.Bxb2 Nb6 31.Ne3 Nd5 32.Ke4 Nxe3 33.Kxe3 Kd5 34.axb4 cxb4 35.c3 bxc3 36.Bxc3 a4 37.Kd3 f5 38.Be5 h5 Magar,J-Fischer,R chqgB30 corr BdF 1993 0-1]
9...Bb4+ 0.69/20
[9...Be7!= -0.06/19 10.Bxe7 Kxe7]
10.c3± Chess con chili. **10...dxc3 11.Nxc3** 0.23/23
[11.Bxd8? too greedy. cxb2+ 12.Kf1 bxa1Q-+ *(12...bxa1R? 13.Qb2-+)*]
[Much worse is 11.bxc3 Be7 12.Bf4 Nc6∓]
[11.0-0± 0.60/23 is superior. Qd3 12.Rd1]
11...Qd3= 12.Qxd3 cxd3 13.0-0-0 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Rxg7 15.Rxd3 Nc6 Wards off Rd3-d8+ **16.Rd2 f6** 1.38/23 Repels h2-h4 **17.Bxf6± Rxg2**



18.Bh4 0.48/23
[18.Re1!± 1.30/24 Kf7 19.Bh4]
18...Rg6± 19.Ng5 Rd2-e2! is the strong threat. **19...Bg8 20.Rhd1 Kf8 21.Rd7 Rg7 22.R1d3!** Rd3-f3+ would now be deadly. White has more active pieces. **22...Re7 23.Rxe7 Nxe7 24.Rd7 h6**

(Diagram)

25.Nh7+ Bxh7 26.Rxe7± 0.41/22 Endgame. KRB-KRB



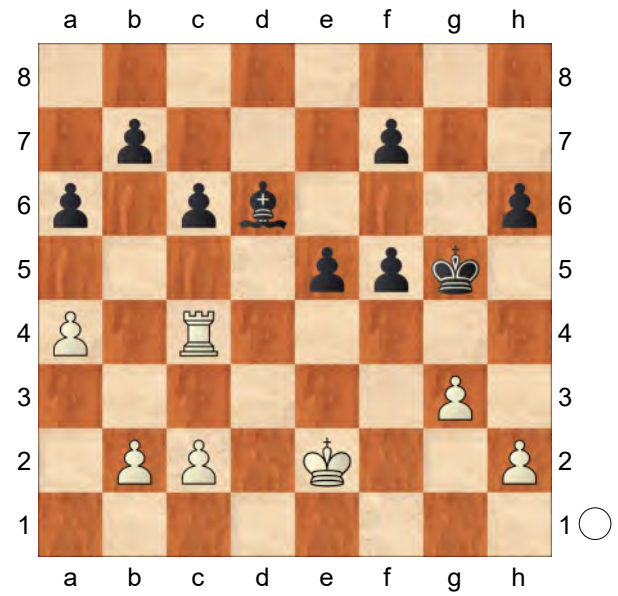
[White should play 26.Bxe7+± 0.92/23 Kg8 27.Rxc7]
26...Bg8 27.Rxc7 Bxa2 28.Rxb7 a5 29.Kb2 Bd5 30.Rb6 0.25/23
[30.Rb5± 0.62/21 Bf7 31.Ka3]
30...Kg7 0.78/21
[30...Re8= 0.25/23 remains equal.]
31.Bf6+ White is better. **31...Kh7 32.Bd4 Bc4 33.Ka3 Be2 34.f4**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.15 (very precise)
1-0

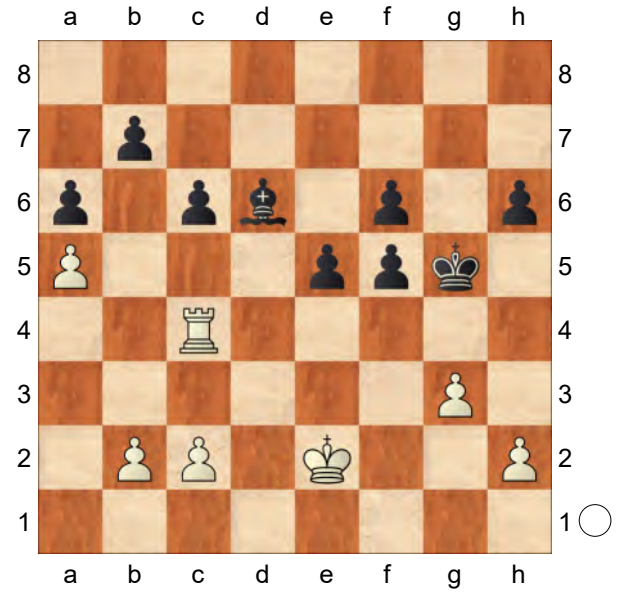
C30
□ **Edwards,J** **2430**
■ **Benjamin,R** **2310**
US10 CCC corr 1993
[Kitty Kat]

C30: King's Gambit Declined
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 a6 7.fxe5 dxe5 8.Bg5 Qd6 0.00/21
[8...h6∓ -0.38/21 9.Bh4 Qd6]
9.Rf1= Na5 0.86/22
[9...h6= 0.00/21 remains equal. 10.Bxf6 Qxf6]
10.Bxf6 0.34/22
[10.Nd2!± 0.86/22]
10...gxf6± White is slightly better.
11.Qd2 -0.40/17
[Better is 11.Nd2= 0.23/20]
11...Nxc4∓ 12.dxc4 Qxd2+ 13.Nxd2 Be6 Dodges Nc3-d5 **14.Nd5 0-0-0 15.Ke2 Rhg8 16.g3 c6** ...Be6-g4+ is the strong threat. **17.Nb3**
[17.Nxf6? Rg6 18.Rf3 h5∓]
17...Ba7 And now ...Be6-g4+ would win. A strong pair of Bishops. **18.Ne7+ Kc7 19.Nxg8 Bxc4+ 20.Kf3 Bxf1 21.Rxf1 Rxg8=** Endgame. KRB-KRN **22.Ke2 Rg6 23.Rf5** White has compensation. **23...Kd7 24.Nd2 Bc5 25.Nf3** With the idea Rf5-h5. **25...Bf8 26.Nh4 Rh6 27.Kf3 Rg6 28.Ke2**
[28.Nxg6? hxg6 29.Rxf6 Ke7-+]
28...Rg4 29.Kd3
[Don't play 29.Rxf6 Ke7 *(29...Rxe4+ 30.Kf3±)* 30.Rf5 *(30.Kf3? Rxh4-+)* 30...Rxe4+ 31.Kd3 Rd4+ 32.Ke2 Rd5∓]
29...Ke6 30.Rh5 h6 31.Nf5 Rg5 32.Rh4 Rxf5 1.48/20
[32...Rg8± 0.46/25]
33.exf5+± Kxf5± KR-KB **34.Rc4** 1.14/23
[White should play 34.Ke2+- 1.67/23]
34...Kg5? 3.10/22 Black cannot hold the game after this.
[34...h5± 1.14/23]
35.a4+- f5 36.Ke2 Hoping for a4-a5. **36...Bd6**

(Diagram)

37.a5! Strongly threatening Rc4-c3.
37...f6? 4.46/24
[37...h5 2.13/20 might work better. 38.Rc3 h4]





38.Rc3! e4 39.Rb3 f4 White is clearly winning. **40.gxf4+**
[40.Rxb7 f3+ 41.Kf1 *(41.Ke3? Bc5+ 42.Kd2 Kg4-+)* 41...e3-+]
40...Bxf4 41.Rxb7 Bxh2 42.Rg7+ Kf4N
[42...Kf5 43.Ra7 h5 44.Rxa6 h4 45.Rxc6 h3 46.Rc8 Bg1 47.Rh8 Edwards,J-Benjamin,R USCCC-10 Final 1993 1-0]
43.Ra7 h5 44.Rxa6 h4 45.Rxc6 h3 46.Rc8 Bg1 47.Rh8
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.38
1-0

C41

□ **Nantes**
■ **Reims**
Reims-Nantes match (1) 1861
[Kitty Kat]

C41: Philidor Defence
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nf3N
[3.Nc3 Nxe4 4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Bb3 Nc6 6.Nb5 g6 7.Qf3 f5 8.Qd5 Qe7 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 b6 11.d3 Bb7 12.h4 h6 13.Nxb6 axb6 14.Qf3 Bg7 15.Qh3 e4 16.Ne2 exd3 17.cxd3 Re8 5...♘c6-N,N Analyse 1996]
[3.f4 d5 4.exd5 e4 *(4...exf4 5.d4 Nxd5 6.Nf3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bxd5 Qxd5 9.Bxf4 Bd6 10.Nc3 Qc6 11.Qd2 Bg4 12.Bxd6 cxd6 13.d5 Qb6+ 14.Qd4 Nd7 15.Qxb6 Nxb6 16.Nd4 a6 17.Rae1 Rae8 18.h3 Bd7 19.Nf3* Von Popiel,I-Schlechter,C 43 Budapest 1896 (8) 1-0*)* 5.Nc3 Bc5 6.d3 exd3 7.cxd3 0-0 8.d4 Bb6 9.Nf3 c6 10.Qb3 Bg4 11.0-0 Bxf3 12.Rxf3 Bxd4+ 13.Kh1 Bxc3 14.Qxc3 cxd5 15.Bd3 Ne4 16.Qc2 Nc6 17.Be3 Re8 Falkbeer,E (2410)-Anderssen,A (2600) Berlin 1851 0-1 18.a3 Rc8 19.Qa4 d4 20.Bg1 a6 21.b4 Na7 22.Qd1 Qd7 23.Rh3 Rc3 24.Qh5 h6 25.Rd1 Nf6 26.Qh4 Nb5 27.a4 Nd6 28.Bxd4 Nf5 29.Bxc3 Nxh4 30.Bh7+ Kxh7 31.Rxd7 Nxd7 32.Rxh4 Re3 Falke,O (1973)-Bardorz,J (2057) GER-ch (Women) 2023 (8) ½-½]
[3.d3 Nc6 4.f4 exf4 5.Bxf4 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.Bd2 Bc5 8.Qf3 Qe7+ 9.Ne2 Nd4 10.Qe4 Nxc2+ 11.Kd1

Nde3+ 12.Kc1 Qxe4 13.dxe4 Nxa1 14.Bd3 Be6 15.b4 Bb6 16.Kb2 0-0-0 17.Nc1 Nac2 Varga,B-Link,A 80/(94) Guben 2001 0-1]

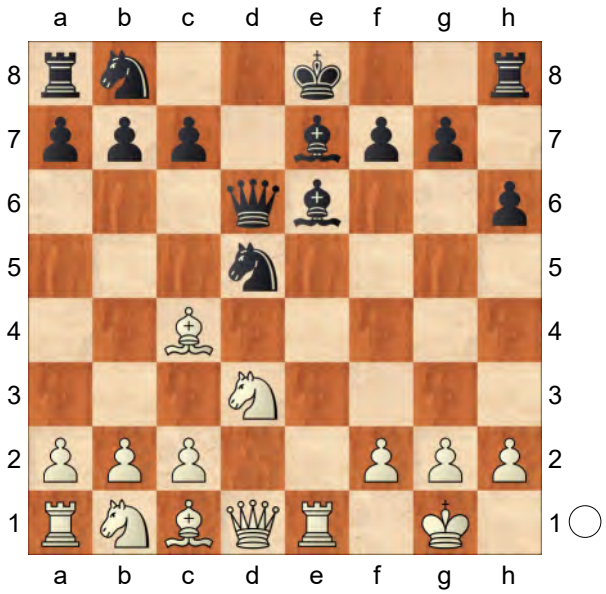
3...d6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 h6! 6.Nf3 e4 7.Ne5 Qd6 0.75/19

[7...Qe7= -0.22/18 remains equal. 8.d4 exd3]

8.d4± And now Nb1-c3 would win. White is better. **8...exd3 9.Nxd3 Nxd5 10.0-0** Qd1-h5 would now be deadly. **10...Be7** 1.28/19

[Black should play 10...Be6± 0.52/18]

11.Re1 Be6



12.Rxe6! fxe6

[12...Qxe6 13.Nf4 Nxf4 14.Bxe6 Nxe6 15.Be3]

13.Qh5+ Kd8 14.Ne5 Rf8 15.Nf7+ Rxf7 16.Qxf7 Bf6 2.23/22

[16...Nb6± 1.45/20]

17.Nd2 1.11/21

[17.Nc3+- 2.23/22 has better winning chances. Nxc3 18.Qg8+ Kd7 19.bxc3 Qd1+ 20.Bf1]

17...Nd7 2.59/22

[17...Qc6± 1.11/21 might work better.]

18.Ne4+- Qe7 19.Qh5 0.95/21

[19.Qg8++- 2.52/21 and the rest is easy. Qe8 20.Nxf6 gxf6 21.Qg7]

19...c6± 20.Bb3 Kc7 1.68/22

[20...a5± 0.68/20]

21.c4↑ White is on the roll. **21...N5b6 22.Qa5 Kb8?** 3.69/22

[22...Bd4 1.74/23]

23.Be3 1.73/20

[⌓23.Bf4+ 3.69/22 e5 24.Be3]

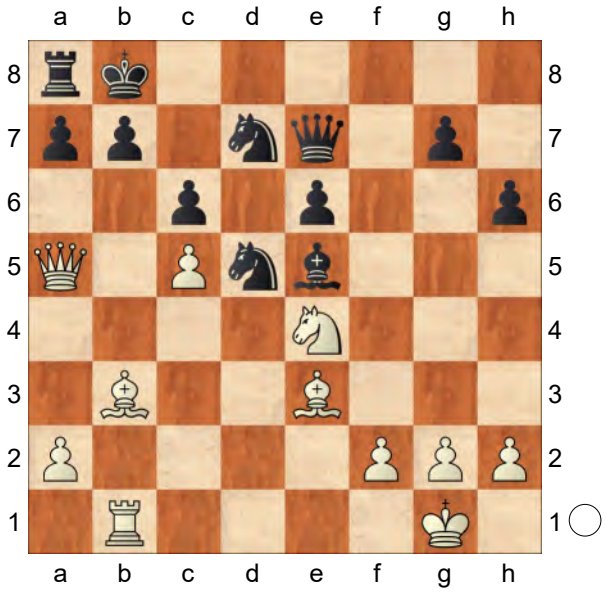
23...Bxb2 24.Rb1 1.13/21

[24.Re1+- 1.76/24]

24...Be5± 25.c5 White is more active.

25...Nd5 3.80/19

[25...Qh4± 0.99/23 was necessary. 26.f4 *(26.cxb6 axb6 27.Qd2 Qxh2+ 28.Kf1 Qh1+ 29.Ke2 Qxb1=)* 26...Bxf4 27.Bxf4+ Qxf4]



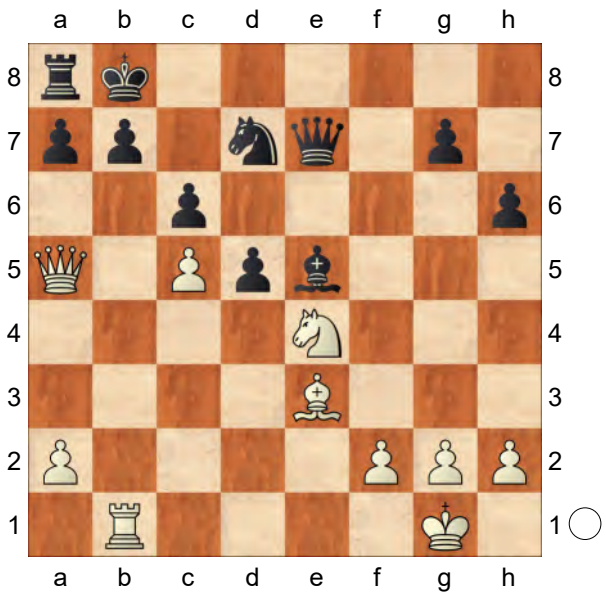
26.Bxd5!+- exd5

(Diagram)

27.Nd6 Nxc5

[27...Nb6 28.cxb6]

28.Bxc5 White wants to mate with Qa5-d8+! **28...Bxd6 29.Re1 Bxc5 30.Rxe7 Bxe7** Endgame. KQ-KRB **31.Qe1 Bd8 32.Qe5+ Kc8 33.Qxg7 b5 34.f4**



[34.Qxh6 Kb7 35.h4 Bc7+-]
34...a5 35.f5
[35.Qxh6 Kb7 36.Qg7+ Ka6+-]
35...b4 36.f6
[36.Qxh6 Kb7 37.Qg7+ Kb6+-]
36...Bb6+ 37.Kf1 Bc5 38.f7
[38.Qxh6 Kc7 39.Qh7+ *(39.Qg7+ Kb6+-)* 39...Kb6+-]
38...h5 39.f8Q+ Bxf8 40.Qxf8+
KQ-KR. White is clearly winning.
40...Kb7 41.Qf7+ Kb6 42.Qxh5 a4 43.Qe5 b3 44.a3 Ra7 45.h4 Rb7 46.h5 Ka6 47.Qb2 c5 48.Ke1 c4 49.h6 c3 8.66/24
[⌓49...d4 5.02/20 50.h7 *(50.Qxd4 b2=)* 50...Rxh7 51.Qxd4 Rc7]
50.Qxc3 b2 51.Qd3+
Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.48
[Stronger than 51.Qc6+ Ka7 52.Qxa4+ *(52.Qxd5 b1Q+ 53.Kf2 Qb2+ 54.Kg1 Qc1+ 55.Kf2 Qf4+ 56.Qf3 Qh4+ 57.g3 Qh2+ 58.Ke3 Rb3+ 59.Ke4 Rxf3 60.Kxf3 Qxh6 61.Kg2 Qc6+ 62.Kh3 Qf3 63.Kh4 Qxa3 64.Kg5 Qxg3+ 65.Kf6 a3 66.Kf7 a2 67.Ke6 a1Q 68.Kd7 Qgg7+ 69.Kd6 Qae5+ 70.Kc6 Qgc7#)* 52...Kb8 53.Qf4+ *(53.Qe8+ Ka7=)* 53...Ka7 54.Qa4+ Kb8 55.Qf4+ *(55.Qe8+ Ka7=)* 55...Ka7 56.Qa4+=]
1-0

C50

☐ **Model Games**
■ **miss_hudson vs. komodo54 (202,Lichess)**
[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
The following game features two players who were inspired to battle it out and secure important victory for their teams.
1.e4 Now we return to another game by komodo54, this time in the Lucchini Gambit Accepted variation. **1...e5 2.Bc4** This game actually begins with the Bishop's Opening, but don't worry, we'll soon move back into familiar territory.
2...Nc6 3.d3 Bc5
[3...Nf6 4.a3 *(4.Nc3 Bc5 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.Na4 Bb6 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.0-0 0-0 12.b3 Qd6 13.Bb2 Qc5+ 14.Kh1 Ng4 15.Qe2 Rf6 16.h3 Ne3 17.Rfe1 Qxc2 18.Nxe5 Rf2* Pinheiro,I (2306)-Dehtiarov,R (2300) Titled Tuesday intern op 21st Feb Early blitz 2023 (11) 1-0*)* 4...Bc5 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 d6 7.Nge2 b5 8.Ba2 Be6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Kh1 Bxa2 11.Rxa2 d5 12.f4 exf4 13.e5 Nh5 14.d4 Bb6 15.Bxf4 f6 16.Bh2 fxe5 17.Rxf8+ Qxf8 18.dxe5 Nabaty,T (2639)-Inarkiev,E (2665) Ulcinj_14210 2019 0-1]
4.Nf3N And now we have transposed back into the Italian Game.
[4.Ne2 Nf6 5.0-0 d6 6.Nbc3 Nd4

7.Na4 0-0 8.c3 Nxe2+ 9.Qxe2 Bg4 10.Qe1 Qd7 11.Nxc5 dxc5 12.f3 Be6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.Be3 b6 15.Rd1 Qf7 16.Qg3 Qh5 17.h3 Rad8 18.Rd2 Rd6 Almada,M-Steiner,A chess.com (Int.-blitz) 146/(195) 2020 (2) 1-0]

[4.Nc3 d6 5.Na4 Bb6 6.Nxb6 axb6 7.Ne2 Na5 8.Nc3 Nxc4 9.dxc4 Be6 10.b3 Qh4 11.Qd3 Ne7 12.Be3 f5 13.exf5 Nxf5 14.0-0 0-0 15.a4 Rf7 16.Qd2 Raf8 17.f3 h6 18.Bf2 Qd8 Tschurl,M (2264)-Solution (2306) 46/87 Belgrad 1988 (7.7) ½-½]

[4.f4 Bxg1 5.Rxg1 Qh4+ 6.Kf1 Nf6 7.g3 Qxh2 8.Qd2 Qh5 9.c3 d6 10.f5 d5 11.exd5 Qxf5+ 12.Ke1 Ne7 13.Rf1 Qh5 14.Qg5 Qxg5 15.Bxg5 Nexd5 16.Nd2 h6 17.Bxf6 Nxf6 18.Nf3 Ng4 Colin,V (2427)-Dietmayer Kraeutler,M (2251) EU-ch 12th Aix les Bains 2011 (9) 0-1]

4...f5 5.exf5 d5 Accepting the gambit is going to be risky for white because of this move, where black is able to sieze a large pawn center. **6.Bb5 Nge7! 7.Nxe5** -0.46/22

[7.d4= 0.00/19 exd4 8.f6]

7...0-0!∓ komodo54 correctly gambits a second pawn to gain a large lead in development. And now ...Ne7xf5! would win. **8.Bxc6** Black is slightly better. **8...Nxc6 9.Nxc6 bxc6** So far we continue to follow the theory covered inChapter 2. White is temporarily two pawns up, but has an extreme lack of development, while on the other side, black has a very strong bishop pair and the semi-open f-file to start an attack on white. **10.0-0 Bxf5 11.Nc3** -1.57/17 This completely natural developing move is much too slow for white, doing nothing to address the threat of black's strong attack, and komodo54 takes advantage by responding with the best move. 11.Be3 Bd6 12.Nd2∓ would be the best way for white to continue development here.

[11.Be3= -0.19/22 remains equal. Bd6 12.f4]

11...Qh4∓ White must now prevent ...Bf5-g4. Black has strong compensation. **12.g3 Qh3** Threatens to win with ...Bf5-g4. **13.Qf3** -4.31/24

[13.d4 -1.80/19 only move. Bd6 14.f4]

13...Bg4 komodo54 missed a winning tactical sequence here with 13...Qxf1+ 14.Kxf1 Bh3+ 15.Ke2 Rxf3 16.Kxf3 Rf8+ . But komodo54 regardless still has a very strong attack against white. **14.Qg2 Qh5 15.h4 Rf3** Here you can see the advantage of the semi-open f-file for black in the Lucchini Gambit Accepted, as it allows their rook to come quickly into the attack. aiming for ...Ra8-e8.

[15...Bf3 16.Qh3∓]

16.Ne2 Qf5 -0.99/19

[16...Raf8-+ -2.07/19 has better winning chances. 17.Nf4 Qe5]

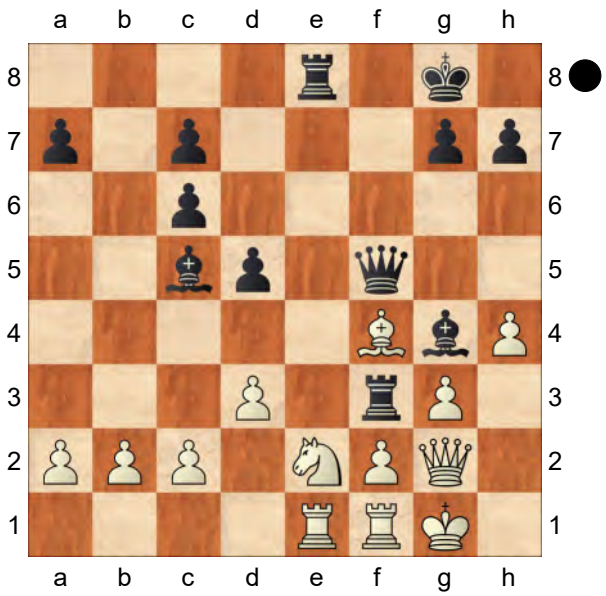
17.Bf4? -3.21/17

[17.Be3∓ -0.99/19 Bh3 *(17...Bxe3 18.fxe3 Rxf1+ 19.Rxf1±)* 18.Qxh3 Qxh3 19.Bxc5]

17...Re8!-+ 18.Rae1

(Diagram)

A mistake because it allows another winning tactical sequence for black with 18...Rxe2 19.Rxe2 Rxf4 20.gxf4 Bxe2 . **18...Bb6?** 0.88/20 But again the winning tactic is missed, showing the importance of always keeping an eye out for discovered attacks on your



opponents pieces. Instead, black gives white a chance to get back into the game with their own tactic. 19.Nd4 here would be winning for white, as the knight forks black's queen and rook and it cannot be captured because then the e8 rook is also hanging! A strong pair of Bishops.

[18...Rxe2!-+ -3.27/21 19.Rxe2 Rxf4 Discovered Attack 20.gxf4 Bxe2]

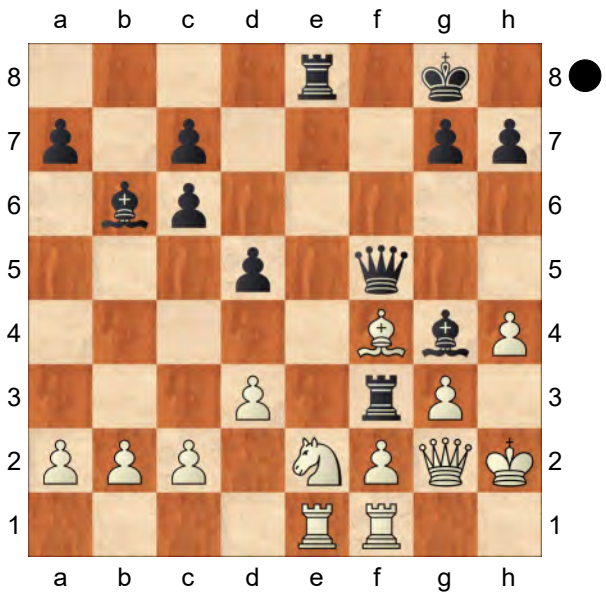
19.Kh2? -2.70/22

[19.Nd4!± 0.88/20 is forced if you want to stay better. Rxe1 20.Nxf5 Rxf1+ Remove Defender 21.Kxf1 *(21.Qxf1 Rxf2 22.Nh6+ gxh6±)* 21...Rxf2+ 22.Qxf2 Bxf2 23.Ne7+ *(23.Kxf2 Bxf5 24.Bxc7 Kf7±)* 23...Kf8 24.Ng6+ *(24.Nxc6 Bb6±; 24.Kxf2 Kxe7 25.Bxc7 c5±; 24.Bxc7 Bxg3±)* 24...hxg6 25.Kxf2]

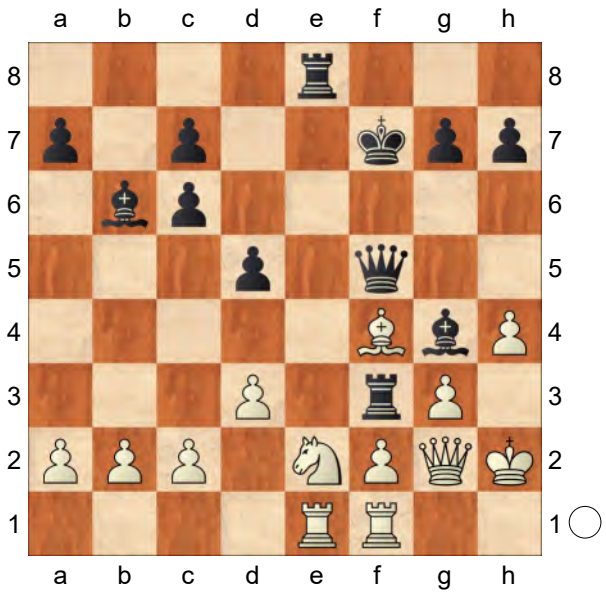
(Diagram)

But white also misses it. Now black again has the opportunity to play the winning move Rxe2. **19...Kf7** 1.62/21

[19...Rxe2!-+ -2.70/22 and all is fine.



20.Rxe2 Rxf4 Discovered Attack 21.Re8+ Kf7 22.gxf4 Kxe8]



A waiting move, possibly trying to protect the rook on e8, but black's king does not belong on f7 because it will just be more exposed and open to attacks there. But it seems that black did not see the winning tactic and wasn't completely sure how else to continue their attack, which is completely understandable in a position as congested as this one. It is a good

thought to keep in mind, though, that when there are so many pieces bunched together in such a small area, there is a good chance you could have a hidden tactic to win material. **20.Be3!+- Qf6** 2.02/22
[20...Qd7± 1.51/20 was necessary. 21.Bxb6 cxb6]
[20...Qc8 21.Bxb6]
21.d4 1.07/21 A strong move to block black's dark square bishop out from the attack, although it would have been a bit more accurate to play Ng1 first to kick out black's rook on f3.
[21.Ng1+- 2.02/22 Rf5 22.d4]
21...h6± 22.c3 g5 1.90/21
[22...a5± 0.94/21]
23.Ng1+- Rg8 2.30/21
[23...Rf5? 24.f3 Bh5 25.g4+-]
[⌓23...Qf5 1.61/19 24.Bf4 *(24.Nxf3 Bxf3 25.g4 Bxg2±)* 24...Rd3 25.Rxe8 Kxe8]
24.Nxf3?? -3.43/20 Here, white mistakenly captures the rook, a natural move, but one that allows black to continue with a strong attack. Instead, it would have been more accurate for white to play 24.h5 a5 25.Nxf3 , first closing down the kingside, and only then capturing the rook. White needed to be patient here, as the rook had no escape anyway, but they were just too quick to take the material and allowed the kingside to be opened up with a devastating attack.
[24.Bf4+- 2.30/21 avoids the disaster. Rxf4 25.gxf4 gxf4 26.Nf3]
24...Bxf3-+ 25.Qh3 g4 And now white's queen is trapped! This is another problem with not playing h5, as white's queen now doesn't have the h4 square as a safe square to go to. Trapped Piece **26.Bg5** -5.85/21
[⌓26.Qg2 -3.87/19 Bxg2 27.Kxg2 Qf3+ 28.Kg1]
26...hxg5 27.hxg5 Rh8 Pin **28.Re7+ Kg6**
[28...Kxe7? perishes. 29.gxf6+ Kxf6 30.Qxh8++-]
[Not 28...Qxe7 29.Qxh8 Qxg5 30.Qh7+ Ke8 31.Re1+ Be4 *(31...Kd8 32.Qh8+)* 32.b4∓]
29.Re6 Rxh3+ And white resigns with checkmate coming after 30.Kg1 Rh1# . Weighted Error Value: White=1.15/ Black=0.65
0-1

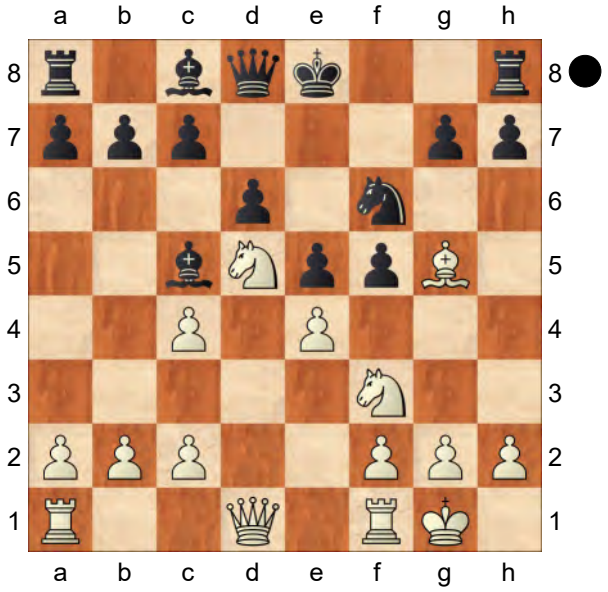
C50

☐ **Model Games**
■ **abdalla2010asnaery24 vs. kill,Lichess)**
[Kitty Kat]

C50: Hungarian Defence and Giuoco Pianissimo
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 We will again see in this game an example of the Bishop's Opening transposing back into the Lucchini Gambit. **2...Nc6 3.d3 f5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.0-0 Bc5 6.Nc3 d6** We have reached the mainline of the Lucchini Gambit Declined, covered inChapter 3 of this course. **7.Bg5** Hoping for Nc3-d5. **7...Na5** 1.34/18 Black finds the critical response here, striking quickly at white's powerful light square bishop before white can play Nd5 with lots of pressure on the f6 knight.
[⌓7...f4 0.98/18]
8.Nd5N 0.02/23 8.Bxf6 would be the critical mainline for white here.
[White should try 8.Bxf6± 1.34/18 Qxf6 9.b4 *(9.Nd5 Qd8 10.b4* Training 047*)* 9...Nxc4 *(9...Bxb4?* is the wrong capture. *10.Nd5+-)*

10.bxc5]

8...Nxc4 Trading off white's bishop on c4 is very important in these lines, leaving white without the piece that had the most potential to exploit your light square weaknesses. **9.dxc4**



Nf3-h4 is the strong threat. **9...fxe4** 0.36/20 It would have been slightly more accurate to play the recommendred ...c6 here because black wants to kick away white's knight on d5 and relieve the pressure on their position as soon as possible. However, with the way black has played this by capturing on e4, white will have better chances to keep the pin on the f6 knight and keep their knight on d5.

[9...c6= -0.03/23 10.Nxf6+ *(10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Nc3 Bb4=)* 10...gxf6]

10.Nd2± Threatens to win with Bg5xf6. Excellent horsemanship. **10...Bf5** An important move for black to play in many of these positions. Not only does this bishop support black's center, but it also defends against any ideas of Qh5+.

11.Bxf6 0.06/19

[11.b4± 0.44/21 is superior. Bd4 12.c3]

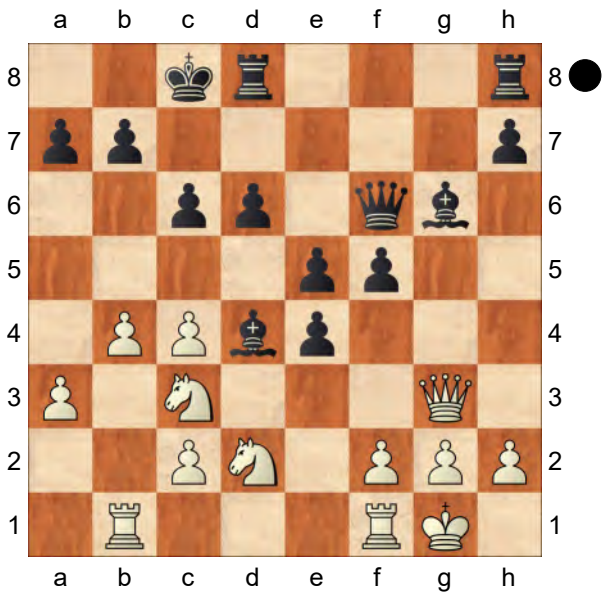
11...gxf6= Yes, black's king is a bit weak, and white maintains their knight on the strong d5 square. But still, black's strong pawn center is more than enough to compensate for this, and even gives a slight advantage to black if white is not quick with counterplay with moves such as b4. **12.Qh5+** -0.68/19 White was apparently tempted to make this good-looking check, but in reality it doesn't accomplish anything for white because black can just block with their bishop.

[12.b4= 0.10/21 Bb6 13.Qe2]

12...Bg6∓ **13.Qg4** -3.03/20 And now white's queen is just misplaced and will become a target for black as they expand with their pawns towards white's king. 13.Qh6 would have been the more accurate choice, trying to stick around in black's position and not allow them to castle. But still, white's queen would be somewhat misplaced, and black would keep a slight advantage after Rg8 or c6. Loses the game.

[13.Qh6∓ -0.79/20 Rg8 14.b4]

13...f5-+ 14.Qg3 c6 15.Nc3 Qf6 16.a3 0-0-0 17.b4 Bd4 18.Rab1



e3 -2.27/18 Black has a good idea here

to cut off white's queen from the defense of their knight, which would simply win a piece. While this seems like a very strong move, white has a tactical idea of their own here that allows them to create some counterplay in what would otherwise be a completely lost position, which is why this isn't the best of moves. 18...d5-+ and simply continuing to expand in the center would have been a better choice. **19.fxe3 Bxc3 20.Nf3** -4.91/20 But white misses the tactic of 20.Ne4 Qe6 21.Nxc3 , taking advantage of black's pinned f-pawn to fork the queen and bishop. Black would have still remained better here because of their dominant center, but at least white wouldn't have lost a piece and still would have kept some chances to create counterplay.

[20.Ne4 -2.38/17 only move. Qf7 *(20...fxe4? too greedy. 21.Rxf6 d5 22.cxd5+-)* 21.Nxc3]

20...Rhg8 21.Rb3 e4 22.Nd4 Bxd4 23.exd4 Qxd4+ 24.Kh1 Qxc4 25.b5 White blunders checkmate, not realizing that their rook was hanging on the back rank. But even without this blunder, white is completely losing to black's dominant position. 25.Qf2 Rd7 26.Re1 d5 27.Qxa7 Qa6 28.Qd4 Qa4 29.Rf1 Re8 30.h4 Rde7-+ is one way the game could have continued. Black is still completely winning, and even ignoring the fact that black has an extra piece, their extremely strong pawns dominate the center and give a big advantage. **25...Qxf1#**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.93/ Black=0.29 (precise)

C42

☐ **Model Games**

■ **Zvjaginsev,V. vs. Sethuraman**

[Kitty Kat]

C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves

Inf 33/(429) **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4** The Bishop's Opening became popular to avoid the Petroff Defence. White's idea is to develop the Knight to e2 after 3.d3 and then aim for the f4-break. **2...Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3** Hysterically, just two hours before this game, I was briefly checking the Wijk aan Zee games which were happening at the same time as the Gibraltar tournament. Along with the other games, I also witnessed the opening phase of Adhiban-Anish Giri. Anish unleashed a new and unexplored idea 4... Bb4, instead of the more common and heavily played 4...Na5. My first impression was that it looked very interesting, so I decided to just turn on the engine on my phone while I was dining at a restaurant. The engine didn't show any immediate signs for an advantage for White. I was wondering that if my opponent plays this, I can maybe follow in the footsteps of Anish. And guess what😋...to my surprise, the same thing happened in my game too, a few hours later 😊. Moral of the story - It's always important to be updated and check games on time😋 **4...Bb4** The idea was relatively new at that time and two games CC StartBracket CC Adhiban-Anish, Wijk aan Zee 2017 and my game, which we are discussing CC EndBracket CC on the same day was a coincidence. Now it's one of the prominent critical options and an acid-test for White. The idea is

simple, Black is aiming for the d5-break. **5.Nf3** After some thought my opponent played 5. Nf3, which resembles the four Knights defence, but here we can break immediately with ...d5 thanks to the pin. 5.Nge2 was played in Adhiban-Giri and Black equalized comfortably, without any problems. 5...d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.O-O Be6 = We have discussed in detail inChapter 7. **5...d5** The main point of the whole Bb4-idea, to free the position and bring the pieces to the centre of the board.

[5...d6 6.0-0 Bxc3 7.bxc3 Na5 *(7...Be6 8.Bb3 h6 9.Re1 0-0 10.h3 Ne7 11.Nh4 c5 12.Qf3 Kh7 13.g4 Nfg8 14.g5 c4 15.dxc4 Rc8 16.Nf5 Qd7 17.c5 dxc5 18.Rd1 Qc6 19.Nxe7 Nxe7 20.gxh6 c4 21.hxg7 Kxg7 22.Ba3* 10.♗a3 b6 11.ba5 ♘h5_7469 (2752)-Osnos,V (2736) Belgrade (match) 1985 0-1*)* 8.Bb3 h6 9.h3 Qe7 10.Nh2 Nxb3 11.axb3 g5 Nepomniachtchi,I (2784)-Giri,A (2764) chess24.com (Int.-m1/2-rapid) 146/(99) 2020]

6.exd5 Nxd5 My theoretical knowledge ended here. Later I analysed it deeply of course, as we've seen in my analysis. **7.Bd2N** 7.O-O Bxc3 8.bxc3 Bg4 ! Not to be greedy and take the pawn on c3, which is very dangerous with our King wide open. 9.Bd2 O-O More or less transposes to the game.

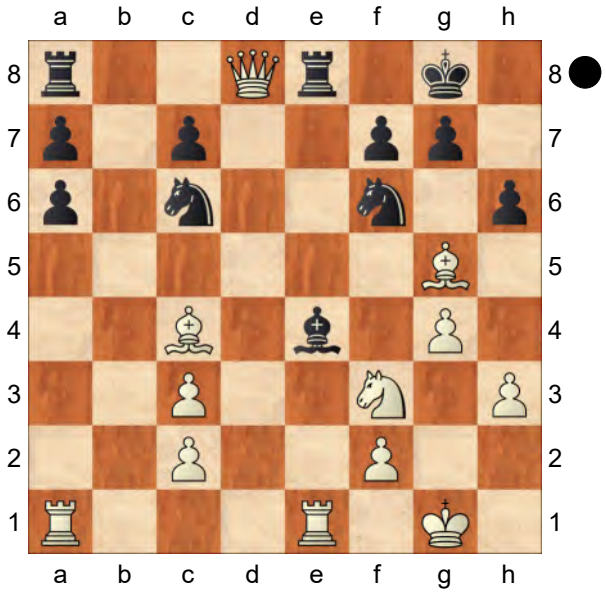
[7.0-0 Bxc3 8.bxc3 Bg4 9.Re1 *(9.Qe1 Bxf3 10.gxf3 0-0 11.Kh1 Qd6 12.Rg1 Rad8 13.Rg3 Nce7 14.a4 Rfe8 15.a5 c6 16.Bd2 Nf5 17.Rg4 h6 18.Rb1 Qf6 19.Qe2 Re7 20.Rbg1 Kh8 21.Qd1 Rde8 22.Bb3 Nh4 23.R1g3 Nf4* Larsen,B-Timman, J Bugojno Bugojno 33/(429) 1982*)* 9...0-0 10.Bd2 Re8 11.Rb1 Nb6 12.Bb3 e4 13.Rxe4 Rxe4 14.dxe4 Ne5 15.Bf4 Qxd1+ 16.Rxd1 Nxf3+ 17.gxf3 Bxf3 18.Re1 Re8 7. Bishop's Opening 2. Bc4-3. d3 4. Nc3 #1]

7...Bxc3 8.bxc3 At first glimpse, it looks like White has the Bishop-pair and well-coordinated pieces, but here comes an important move which puts White under pressure. **8...Bg4** The key-move, without it Black would be slightly worse. With the text move Black is exerting pressure on the f3-Knight before White initiates h3. 8...O-O 9.h3 stops ...Bg4 and White enjoys the Bishop-pair. **9.h3 Bh5 10.0-0 0-0 11.g4** White immediately gets rid off the pin, but in turn, weakens his Kingside by this advance. 11.Re1 Re8 12.a4 Qd6 = Planning to bring the other Rook into the game. Black is totally fine here, with White still having the pressure of our annoying Bishop on h5 pinning the Knight on f3. **11...Bg6** The position is equal. **12.Re1 Re8** Threatening ...e4 to shatter White's pawn-structure by getting rid of the d3-pawn later after which the weakness of the doubled c-pawns begins to tell. **13.a4** Providing room for the Bishop on c4. **13...h6** A important and useful move, clearing the back rank-motive and also preventing some sort of Bg5- or Ng5-ideas for White. **14.a5 e4** And now our plan comes into action. **15.dxe4 Bxe4 16.a6** White is strategically worse now because of his defective pawn-structure, but he's in time to create some counterplay with the text move. **16...bxa6 17.Bg5** A fascinating resource which came out of the blue, saves White from ending up being slightly worse. Once again the rule of

dynamic play in strategically worse positions comes into play. 17.Rxa6 Nb6 =+ And Black's position is slightly better as all the counterplay has been sabotaged by the strong Knight on b6. A strong pair of Bishops. **17...Nf6** A very strong counter resource, which defends the position. 17...hxg5 ? 18. Rxe4 Rxe4 19.Bxd5 +- is the point, and White is winning here as the c6-Knight hangs.

[17...hxg5 18.Rxe4 Nf4 *(18...Rxe4?* too greedy. *19.Bxd5 Re6 20.Bxe6+-; 18...Nxc3?* is the wrong capture. *19.Rxe8+* Deflection *Qxe8 20.Qd3+-)* 19.Qe1+-]

18.Qxd8



Leads to massive exchanges now. Remove Defender **18...Raxd8 19.Bxf6 gxf6** There are only two Knight-moves here. **20.Nd4** My opponent, who understood the danger, went all way to out just to exchange all the pieces. 20. Nh4 gives the pawn on c2 and aims for some counterplay on the Kingside after 20...Bxc2 21.Rxe8+ Rxe8 22.Rxa6 White creates some play, targeting the f6-pawn with his active Rook but Black has a nice tactical resource again, due to the weak White King. 22...Re1+ 23. Kg2 Re5 ! The idea is ...Rc5 and White cannot take on c6, because of ...Be4+. **20...Nxd4 21.cxd4 Rxd4 22.Bxa6** And here I almost used up all my time, coming down to 4 minutes to find an advantage for Black. But perhaps with White's weaknesses, the pawn doesn't matter much. **22...Re5** 22...Bc6 this was the reason for my long thought, but White attains counterplay after 23. Rxe8+ Bxe8 24.Bd3 Ra4 25.Rb1 Kf8 26.Rb7 = And the Rook on the seventh rank creates some play. Rooks on the seventh rank can be so powerful that they can compensate for material. Even if you're down a pawn, but you have a killer rook on the 7th rank, chances are that you're in the driver's seat. **23.c3 Rd8 24.f4 Re6 25.Bf1 Ra8 26.Bc4 Ree8 27.Ra6 Kg7** 27...c6 But what's Black's next plan? All his pieces are tied down in defending the extra pawn. 28. Kf2 = **28.Rea1 f5 29.Rxa7 fxg4 30.hxg4 Rxa7 31.Rxa7** And a draw was agreed here! A perfect game, combined with a timely opening-preparation 😀. An interesting draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)

C24

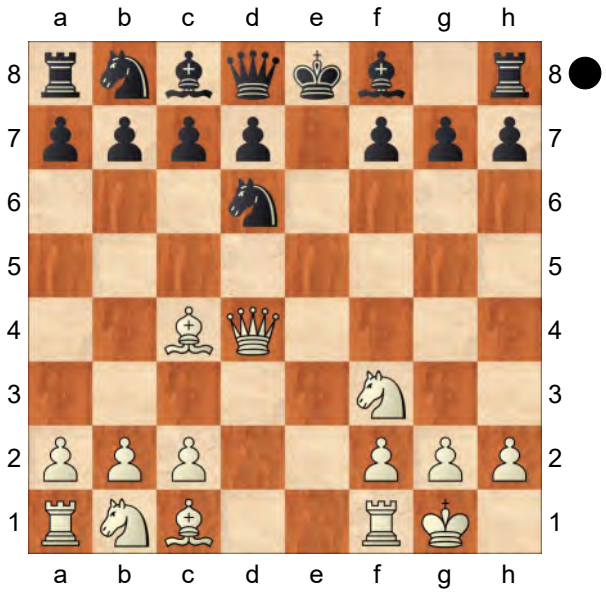
☐ **Model Games**
■ **Polzin,Rainer vs. Fritzsch**
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Qxd4 Nd6? 2.14/19 This is a bad choice for Black, although it is very common, especially in blitz and rapid

games. The main idea of the move is to get rid of the light-squared Bishop. However, Black loses track with development allowing us to take advantage of his exposed King. Despite good development, White's main advantage is an active Queen that controls g7 square, not allowing Black to continue with normal development with 6...Be7.

[5...Nf6!∓ -0.44/20 keeps the upper hand. 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Nc3 c6 8.0-0-0 d5 9.Rhe1 Be6 10.Qh4 Nbd7 11.Nd4 Nc5 12.f4 0-0 13.Bd3 Re8 14.Bf5 h6 15.Bxh6 gxh6 16.Bxe6 Nxe6 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Rxe6 Kf7 19.f5 Bf8 20.Rde1 Bg7 17.♔h1 ♗d7 (2415)-Corzo (2390) Netherlands corr 1987 0-1]

6.0-0+-



Thanks to much better pieces, we can ignore Black's main idea of 6...Nxc4. After this simple development move, Black is faced with a very dangerous threat of 7.Re1 as Black cannot block the check with the Bishop. As previously described, the pawn on g7 would be hanging. Black must now prevent Rf1-e1+. **6...Nxc4N** 5.20/21 Although the 7.Re1 is on the table now, many of my opponents dived directly into a losing position after this terrible mistake. What is adorable is that there is no player who uses the Urusov gambit as a weapon who did not win the game this way! As I started thinking to release the course on this theme, I discussed it with my students. They helped me a lot to check the stability of the lines within it, and most of them came back to me excited to show how they mated after 10 moves only!

[6...f6 2.03/20]

[6...Qf6 7.Nc3 Qxd4 8.Nxd4 Nxc4 9.Re1+ Kd8 10.b3 Bb4 11.Re3 Nxe3 12.Bxe3 Bxc3 13.Rd1 Re8 14.Nf5 Nc6 15.Rd3 Bf6 16.g4 d6 17.Rd5 Nb4 18.Rb5 Nxc2 19.Bf4 Bd7 20.Rxb7 Bc6 21.Bxd6 11.♘d2 e5 12.♘b3-Canal,N Banjaluka Banjaluka 23/(126) 1976 0-1]

7.Re1+ Everything is forced now. Black's only chance to survive is to block the check with the Bishop. But it's too late... White is clearly winning. **7...Be7** And now ...0-0! would win. **8.Qxg7** With a tempo attack on the Rook on h8, White has other things in mind. It is a position with a piece down, but as you will see soon, Black will not have any option that will allow him to save the position.

[Worse is 8.Qxc4 0-0 9.Nc3 c6∓]

8...Rf8 9.Bh6 Game over! There is no way to defend against the tremendous threat of Qxf8#! All of White's pieces are perfectly placed on the board, and Black can only resign here, as it happened in this game. The trainable variation can be found here. Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.00 (flawless) /Black=1.76
[Stronger than 9.Qxh7 d6=]
1-0

C28

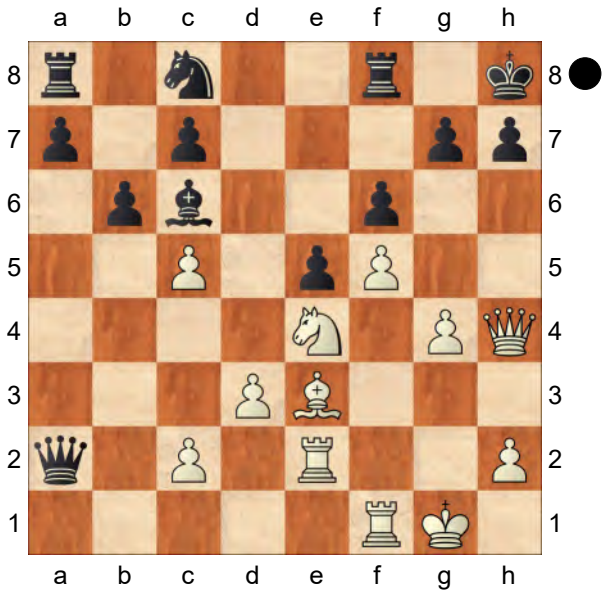
☐ **Model Games**
■ **Karjakin,Sergey vs. Kosteniu**
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Nge2 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Be6 8.Bxd5 Bxd5 9.f4 0-0 10.f5 Bxc3 11.bxc3 aiming for c3-c4. The position is equal. **11...f6! 12.Ng3 Qd7**
[12...b5 13.Qg4 Kh8 14.a4 a6 15.Ba3 Rg8 16.Rae1 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The-Bishop's Opening: 2... Nc6 3.N]
13.Be3N Even though in the Course I suggested 13.Rb1!? as my novelty, I was very excited and happy when I saw this game for the first time a long time ago. It clearly shows us an idea of what are we supposed to do in similar positions. With the last move, White threatens nothing, but completes his development and slowly but surely is getting ready for his final action on the Kingside! In some positions, dark-squared Bishop might go on a3, although having it placed on e3, White seems solid too.
[13.c4!? Bf7□ 14.Be3=]
[13.Qg4 Kh8 14.Be3 b5 15.a4 a6 16.Rfb1 Ne7 17.Bc5 Rfb8 18.axb5 axb5 19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Rxb5 Ra1+ 22.Kf2 Qa3 23.Rxd5 Qa7+ 24.Qd4 7.g4 ♗b4 8.♗d2 ♕e7 (2110)-Taylor,R (1605) Yerevan (zt) 33/715 1982 (8) 1-0]
13...Ne7 The Ne7 retreat is something that I like and fear from Black players! It gives better protection to the b7 pawn CC StartBracket CC in case White goes with Rb1 CC EndBracket CC, pressures the f5 pawn in some circumstances, but the most important idea behind it, it gives either Bc6 or b6 followed by Bb7 to the Black's bishop! Why does Black need that Bishop on this diagonal? In most positions, after c4 happens LightSquared Bishop goes on f7 or g8 and along with not stoping any Ne4 ideas by Black, it does not have particularly strong defensive Kingside resources either! So, having the Bishop on an a8-h1 diagonal helps Black to execute Ne4 whenever they want! **14.c4** The last move would be way more efficient if there was no Ne7 , but this still gives White decent central advantage and space control. **14...Bc6** Do not forget, this Bishop belongs on the a8-h1 diagonal, so Black can always eliminate Ne4 if needed! **15.Qg4** Quite a typical move in similar positions. It allows White better control of the e4 square CC StartBracket CC Ne4 becomes posssible since it will be protected by Queen CC EndBracket CC, gives White possible attack with ideas such as Bh6 or Nh5, opens up back rank for the more flexibile rook movement and finally gives White better control of the Kingside with a possibility to set it on the right place and support Kingside pawn storm! **15...Kh8** Defensive precaution measures aimed against Nh5 and Bh6. Also, it opens up Rg8 followed by g6 in some positions, as long as Queen stands on g4. **16.Rae1** Karjakin has just completed his development and the first part of the game came to an end! Follow carefully

how Karjakin moved his forces and the way he built up his attack on the Kingside - this is why I took this game as a model one! **16...b6** Quite a logical prophylactic move. It gives the Black possibility, to put its Bishop back to b7, prevents Ne4-Nc5-Ne6 ideas by White CC StartBracket CC if Black wants to avoid taking on e4 and keep his light-squared Bishop at all costs CC EndBracket CC and in some positions, it avoids having pawn on a7 being under the attack. **17.Re2** Another important move in White's strategy! White gives this rook a very valuable role and it might go to g2 after Ng3 goes to either e4 and after Qh4-g4-Rg2 it will support Kingside attack coped with g5 eventually! **17...Rf7** A pretty logical defensive move that does not look that bad, although, it is hard to see any other particularly special moves for Black but defensive and passive ones. **18.Qh5** Getting tempo for Ne4 and g4 - Kingside attack! **18...Nc8** Another typical move by Black. This Knight goes towards d6 where it would certainly have better control of both f5 pawn and e4 central square. **19.c5** White temporarily prevents Nd6, but more importantly echaging his big weakness - doubled pawns! **19...Rf8** **20.Ne4** Finally move that presents one of the key attacking resources by White! All of a sudden the whole strategy coped with the attack on the Kingside becomes realistic and g4-Rg2 followed by g5 is about to happen! **20...Qf7** **21.Qh4** -1.24/19 White surely does not want to exchange the Queens! We would dry out our attacking sources otherwise!

[21.Qxf7∓ -0.47/19 Rxf7 22.g4]

21...Qxa2∓ **22.g4**



Now, we can clearly see the benefits of strong Rook on e2! Along with g4-Rg2 and g5 idea, it also protects the c2 pawn and minimizes Black counter chances! **22...Ne7** -0.61/19

[Black should try 22...Bxe4!∓ -1.24/22 23.dxe4 Qc4]

23.g5!∓ **fxg5** -0.12/18

[23...Bxe4∓ -0.80/18 24.dxe4 fxg5 25.Bxg5 Ng8]

24.Nxg5= **Qg8** **25.Ref2** Threatening break with f6. Strongly threatening f5-f6. **25...Bd7** 0.55/25

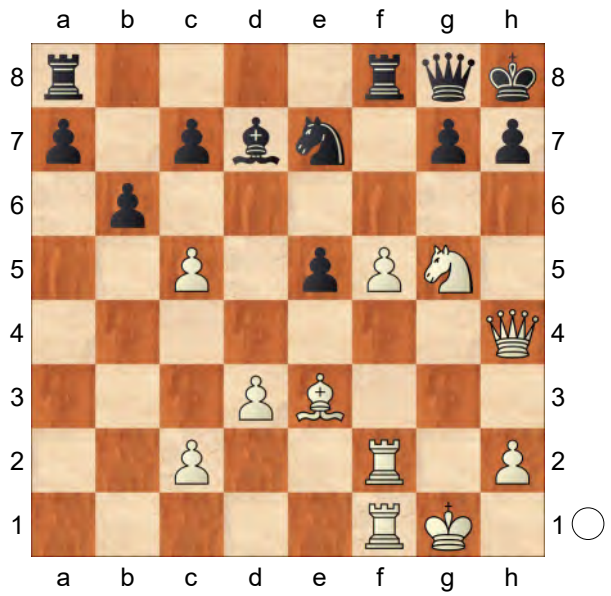
[25...Nd5= -0.14/22 26.Bc1 Bd7]

(Diagram)

26.Nxh7!→ Removes one of the main defenders of the previously safe King on h8 and gets the pawn back. Looks like White gets unstoppable initiative after this move! Discovered Attack. White attacks. **26...Qxh7**

[26...Nxf5 27.Rxf5 *(27.Nxf8+? Nxh4 28.Nxd7 Qe6-+)* 27...Bxf5 28.Nxf8+]

27.Qxe7 White is more active. **27...Bxf5**



28.Qg5
[28.Qxc7? Qg6+ 29.Kh1 Be4+ 30.dxe4 Qxe4+ 31.Kg1 Qxe3-+]
28...g6 29.h4 Threatens to win with h4-h5! **29...Rae8** 1.41/18
[⌓29...Rf7 0.74/17]
30.d4 0.31/20 In an already winning position, Karjakin failed to find the fastest and easiest way to open the Black's King and weaken Bf5. Although, opposite-colored Bishops with the rooks and Queen on the board usually favor one side! This time White had hardly stoppable initiative!
[30.h5± 1.41/18 Re6 31.Rg2]
30...bxc5 0.80/22
[30...Qe7± 0.31/20 is superior.]

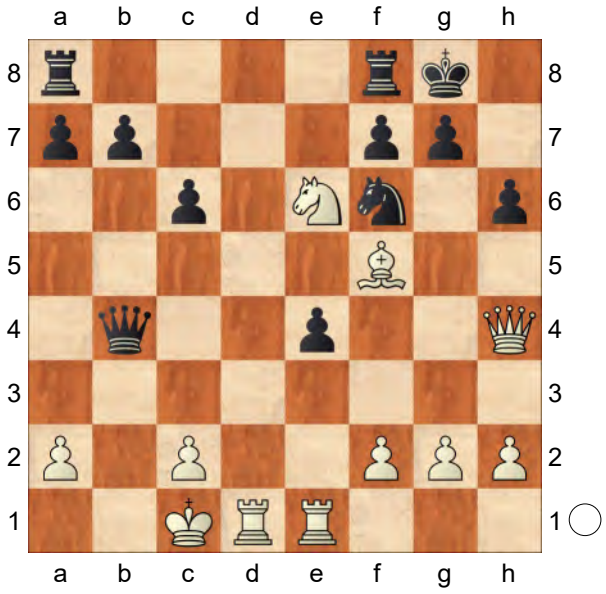
(Diagram)

31.dxe5!± Rf7 1.25/20
[⌓31...Rg8 0.74/21]
32.h5
[32.Bxc5?! Qg7=]
32...Re6? 3.01/21
[32...Qg7± 1.20/19]
33.Bxc5 Qg7? 4.06/18 Black is weak on the dark squares
[33...a5 2.31/19 34.Rg2 Rg7 *(34...Qxh5? 35.Rh2+-* Pin *)*]
34.Rh2+-
[34.Bxa7 gxh5 35.Qxg7+ *(35.Rxf5 Rg6∓* Pin *)* 35...Rxg7+ 36.Kh2 Bg4=]
34...Qh7 35.Qd8+ This is a remarkable example of White's plans in a similar type of positions, the one that I like a lot and find very typical. I believe learning plans and ideas from this game, could help you a lot in better understanding of White's concepts and can bring you lots of joy and nice wins. Good luck!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.53
[Not 35.Bxa7 gxh5 36.Rg2 *(36.Rxh5 Rg6=* Pin *)* 36...Rg6 *(36...Rxe5 37.Qd8+)* 37.Qd8+ Qg8 38.Qxg8+ Rxg8 39.Rxg8+ Kxg8∓]
1-0

C24

☐ **Model Games**
■ **Bauer,Robert vs. Grabliau**
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Qxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bg5 c6 8.0-0-0 d5 9.Rhe1 Be6 10.Qh4 Nbd7 11.Bd3 Nc5 -0.55/20
[11...h6= -0.04/21]
12.Nd4∓ h6 0.12/18
[12...Nfd7!∓ -0.55/20 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Qxe7+ Kxe7]
13.Bf5= The position is equal. **13...Nfd7⇄** This is maybe the only move for Black that provides a fairly active position. Black's main threat now is Bg5 and the Bishop on e6 looks well defended. White needs to accept the trades which comforts Black as he will gain some space for the pieces. Black puts up resistance **14.Bxe7**
[14.Nxe6 Nxe6 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Qxe7+ Kxe7∓]
14...Qxe7 15.Qg4 White steps back and avoids the Queen exchange. The main idea is now to advance with b4, where White will aim to take full control of the light squares. Of course, the attack on the Kingside can be improved by Re3, followed by Re1 and Rg3, and White will have a nice compensation for the pawn. The engines are not delighted to evaluate this position in favor of White, but in practice, White has better chances as it is very hard for Black to follow the only defending moves that hold the balance. All of this up to this point has been already analyzed in the main course.
[15.Qxe7+ simplifies Kxe7 16.b4 Kf6 17.bxc5 Bxf5 18.Nxd5+ cxd5 19.Nxf5 Nxc5 20.Rxd5 Ne6 21.Red1]
15...0-0N Black slides the King onto the kingside, but White keeps active play thanks to the previously mentioned 16. b4! Strongly threatening ...Be6xf5. **16.b4 Nf6** This is the only way for Black to save the game and equalize the position. As it will be shown in the game, Black hopes for the perpetual check as the only defense of the forthcoming Kingside attack. **17.Qh4 Nce4 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Nxe6!** White needs to accept the trades as Black could gain counterplay if we are stubborn to continue attacking. 19.Bxe4?! instead gives very good play to Black after 19... Qxb4 . White cannot take risks here and we must be satisfied with a draw. In addition to this game and line, I would like to mention that in my long experience with the Bishop opening I have never faced this almost forced draw line. **19...Qxb4**



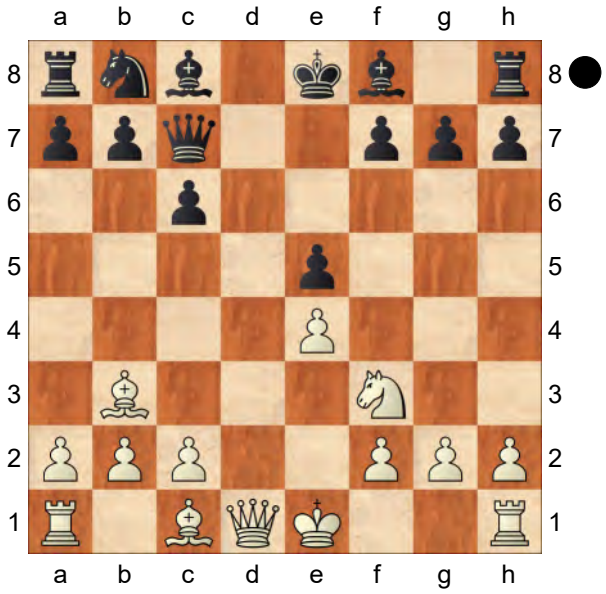
Threatens to win with ...Qb4-a3+. **20.Nxf8 Qa3+** And Black ends the game with a perpetual check that White cannot avoid. **21.Kb1** Re1-e3 would

now be deadly. **21...Qb4+** An uneventful encounter.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

C24

☐ **Model Games**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus vs. Wang**
[Kitty Kat]

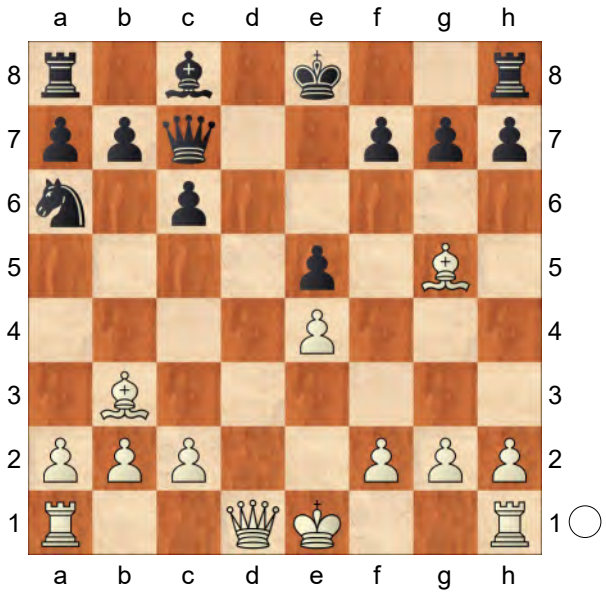
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Qc7 0.38/23
[5...Bd6= 0.00/21 feels stronger.]
6.Nc3 dxe4 7.Nxe4 Nxe4 8.dxe4



aiming for Nf3-g5. White has an edge.
8...Be7 0.54/21
[8...Bg4= 0.12/21]
9.Ng5!± Bxg5 10.Bxg5 Qd1-h5 is the strong threat. **10...Na6**

(Diagram)

11.Be3! Against Na6-c5 **11...0-0**
12.Qd2 Black is now going downhill.
12...Qe7 13.Qc3 Re8 14.0-0-0
Everything up to this point has been



analyzed in the theoretical part of the course. **14...Nc7N** Black is looking for a possible Queenside expansion with either a5, Nb5 or Qf6 followed by Be6
15.Rd3 A strong idea that keeps d2 square open in the case of 15...Nb5 16. Qd2 . White has more active pieces.
15...Qf6 Black defends pawn on e5 and hopes for Be6 to deprive White of the Bishop pair. In the meantime, Carlsen just develops and does not care much about the Bishop's pair advantage, but fights for full activity and a better middlegame where he keeps d2 square open in the case of 15...Nb5 16.Qd2
16.f3 Typical Carlsen move. White continues to improve his position, while Black desperately takes certain measures about fighting against the Bishop pair, open d-file, and the weak diagonal g1-a7. **16...Ne6** 1.53/22
In my opinion, in an already difficult position, Black does not follow logical ideas in the position, like 16...Be6 and goes for this mistake which shows that he does not have any obvious plan but tries to defend move by move. Once someone said, 'it is even better to have

a wrong plan, than not to have one!'
[⌓16...Be6 1.16/21]
17.Rd6± Carlsen penetrates and without much hesitation takes the strong d6 square, pins the Knight on e6 and Queen on f6, the Bishop on c8 seems passive too. **17...g6** 3.12/19
[⌓17...Rd8 1.68/19 18.Rhd1 Rxd6 19.Rxd6 Qh4]
18.Rhd1 Qg7 If one has to centralize a Queen like this during the game, everyone can come up with a logical conclusion, White is nearly technically winning! **19.Qd2** Tripling heavy pieces along the d-file and threatens Bh6 at some point. **19...h5 20.g3** Cuts off any Nf4 idea and could prepare for f4 by himself **20...Nc7 21.Bh6** Black is weak on the dark squares **21...Qh7 22.Rd8 Bh3?** 6.92/24
[22...Be6 3.52/20]
23.Rxa8+- Nxa8 24.Bg5 A funny position that shows how strong is Magnus Carlsen. Even though he was not up materially, he was completely winning. Open d-file fully under his control, the Bishop pair and on top of all that a 'locked' Queen on h7 and 'angled' Knight on a8, as well as the inability to do something active with Re8 - Sad position for Black! **24...Nc7 25.Qa5 Ne6 26.Bxe6 Bxe6?** 6.23/22
[26...fxe6 3.22/18 27.Rd3 *(27.Qxa7 Qf7±)* 27...Rf8 28.Qxa7 Bf1]
27.Rd8 Complete domination by the World champion!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.66
1-0

C24

☐ **Model Games**
■ **Hausner,Ivan vs. Belunek**
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Qxd4 Nf6 Even though the Knight comes back on the square from where it came, this is the best option for Black in this position. 5...Nd6 interrupts the connection between White's Queen and g7 spot and allows Black to proceed with normal development Be7, O-O . **6.Nc3** White continues with development and centralizes the fourth piece. The forthcoming idea is to take advantage of the clumsy Knight, pinning it with Bg5, Qh4, and the tremendous attack coming after O-O-O. **6...c6** Black wants to be ready for the central strike with d5. At the same time, this move will block White's light-squared Bishop. However, White has plenty of time to finish development and to fully compensate the lack of the pawn with huge activity. **7.Bg5** Almost all the pieces are in the game! Black already faces issues with the Knight on f6 while White gets ready for O-O-O . **7...Be7 8.0-0-0** White completes development with the most favorite idea - a long castle! This move showcases the direction of the game, opposite-side castles. White will launch the attack on the Kingside while Black could try to do the same on the Queenside. Anyway, speaking about what happens with practice, I hardly remember a game where Black arranged the attack on the Queenside. As it will be obvious from this game, there is simply no time for Black to take

advantage of the center to create action through the Queenside. **8...d5 9.Rhe1** Maybe it looks at first sight that Black managed to complete the central break with tempo attack on the Bc4, White proves that there is no such a threat. Black cannot take the Bishop as Be7 is pinned and there is no defense of Qd8. Nevertheless, I would emphasize again that White concluded the development, having activated all of the pieces, while Black still struggles to find a proper plan. **9...Be6** Although Black interrupts the pin with this development move, aiming to proceed with Nbd7 and O-O, it can not be said that he feels comfortable playing this position. White is ready to toggle the pieces through the Kingside, getting ready for the mating attack! **10.Qh4** Keeping all pieces active, without retreating, White continues to put pressure on Black. After Black finally threatens the light-squared Bishop we will be ready to put it on the more active square - d3. One shall not forget that the Bd3 will control the h7 spot and it will be very hard for Black to keep the King in safety. **10...Nbd7** -0.04/20 Black finally threatens the Bishop on c4, but that fits with White's plan. As previously mentioned, the light-squared Bishop finds a more attractive square to go.

[10...h6∓ -0.44/21 11.Bd3 Rg8 *(11...hxg5? 12.Qxh8+ Kd7 13.Qxg7+-)*]

11.Bd3= White keeps all the pieces active and Black has issues to castle Kingside. He would be very brave to castle at this point of play when all the White's pieces are eyeing the h7 spot. **11...Nc5** While Black tries to find a solution for a problem with castling and the vulnerable h7 pawn, White will point new weaknesses in Black's position as it will be shown soon. The position is equal. **12.Nd4** Of course that White is not afraid of a possible Nxd3 as that would bring another Rook in action after Rxd3. Black must feel uncomfortable facing the threat of Bf5 now! **12...h6** 0.25/18 I would say that this is a suspicious move that does not change White's plans. Black threatens nothing as the Rook on h8 hangs after the capture of the Bishop on g5.

[12...Nfd7!∓ -0.48/18 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Qxe7+ Kxe7]

[12...Ng8 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Qg3 g6 15.f4 *(15.Ndb5 Rd8 16.Nc7+ Kf8 17.Nxe6+ Nxe6 18.Ne2 Qd6 19.Qh4 Kg7 20.f4 Nf6 21.f5 Nc5 22.Nd4 Nxd3+ 23.Rxd3 Rde8 24.Rf1 Re4 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.Qg5 Re5 27.Nf5+ Rxf5 28.Rxf5 Ne4 29.Qg4 Rxh2* Dauerer,L (1184)-Kaempf,L GER-ch U25-C 2023 (7) 1-0*)* 15...0-0-0 16.f5 Nxd3+ 17.Rxd3 gxf5 18.Ncb5 h6 19.Rde3 a6 20.Nxf5 axb5 21.Nxe7+ Nxe7 22.Rxe6 fxe6 23.Rxe6 Rd7 24.Qh3 Kd8 25.Rxh6 Rf8 26.Rh8 Rxh8 27.Qxh8+ Alexopoulos,G (2255)-Rohde,M (2550) Nassau CC-ch 1994 0-1]

13.Bf5 As Black does not threaten the Bishop on g5, White uses some extra time to improve the position of pieces, revealing again the pin coming from the Rook on e1. **13...Kd7** Black aims to keep the Bishop on e6 safe and to gain activity. Now Black indeed threatens to take the dark-squared Bishop but White will easily resolve this issue. **14.Bd2N** It is a fact that the Queen looks a little clumsy now as it is pinned by Black's Bishop from e7. For this reason, White

aims to proceed with Qh3- putting more pressure on the Bishop on e6, but also escaping from the possibly uncomfortable pin. Threatening Nc3-a4!

[14.Bf4 Nfe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe6+ fxe6 17.Qg4 Qg8 18.Rxe4 dxe4 19.Nxe6+ Ke8 20.Qg6+ Qf7 21.Nxg7+ Kf8 22.Ne6+ Ke8 23.Nc7+ Kf8 24.Bxh6+ Rxh6 25.Qxh6+ Zimmermann,J-Hartmann DDR corr 1983 1-0]

14...Nfe4? 2.57/22 Loses the game.

15.Nxe4 I can bet that no one expected this move coming! Although it is very attractive I must admit that it's not maybe the best. Engines admire more the stable 15.Qg4 move, but there is no doubt that 15.Nxe4! makes it more enticing. White uses the badly positioned Black King to grab two pieces and huge activity if Black decides to accept the Queen sacrifice. Overworked Piece **15...Nxe4?** 4.93/22 Black decided not to take risks and tried to keep the King safe. If 15...Bxh4 was played White would be much better after 16. Nxc5 Ke7 with nasty 16...-- 17.Bb4 coming! Black's King would be miserable there.

[15...Bxh4 16.Nxc5+ Ke7 *(16...Kc8? 17.Ncxe6 fxe6 18.Rxe6+-)* 17.Ndxe6 fxe6 18.Rxe6+ Kf8 19.Rg6]

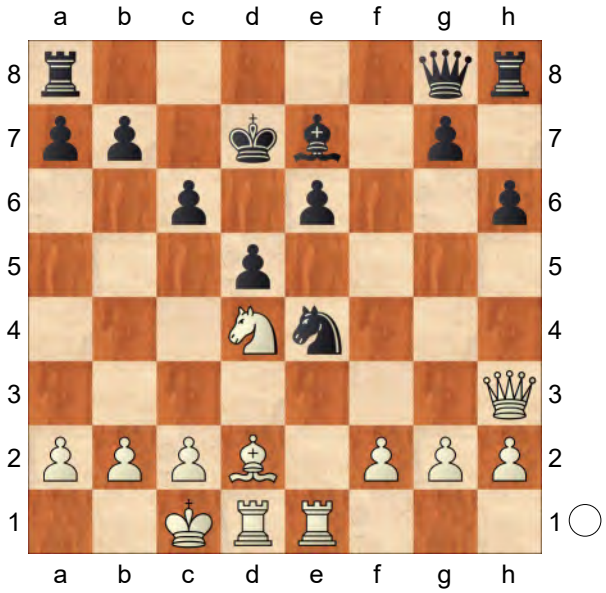
[15...Nd3+ 2.04/17 16.cxd3 Bxh4 17.Nc5+ Ke7 *(17...Kc8 18.Ndxe6 fxe6 19.Rxe6±)*]

16.Bxe6++-

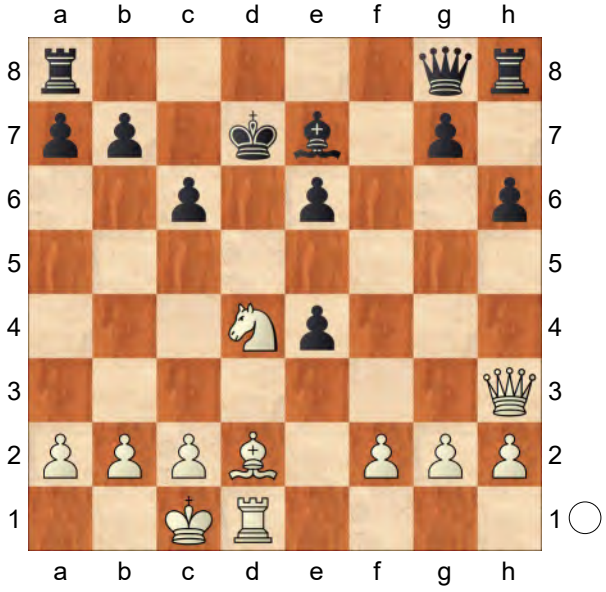
[16.Qg4 Bxf5 17.Nxf5 Nf6]

16...fxe6 17.Qh3 White now provoked another weakness that is hard to defend. One should not forget that Black's King is still exposed in the center and that opens many options for White! Hoping for Re1xe4! **17...Qg8** 5.66/21

[17...Ng5 3.95/18 keeps fighting. 18.Bxg5 Bxg5+ 19.Kb1 Re8 20.Nxe6 Rxe6]

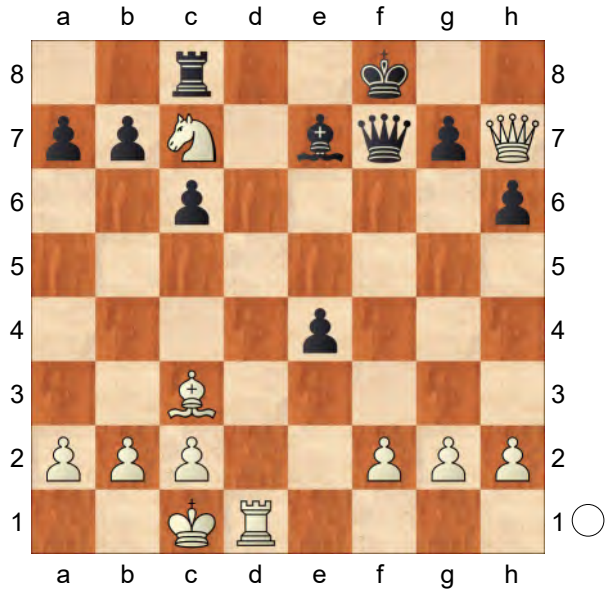


18.Rxe4! White uses the opportunity to open the Rook for the d-file, exposing Black's King to a deadly attack. Black needs to accept this sacrifice hoping for the best. **18...dxe4**



19.Nxe6! Another tactical engagement for White! Of course, all of these were possible due to the terribly placed Black King. Black did not make many mistakes

in this game, but bad pieces allowed White to outplay the opponent without much effort. **19...Ke8** Of course 19... Qxe6 leads to 20.Bf4 and Black loses a Queen. **20.Bc3** White has it all now! It seems that everything hangs in Black's position - Nc7, Nxg7, Bxg7 all those threats are impossible to be defended. **20...Rh7 21.Qf5** It looks that White plays with his opponent now. Black is out of moves and White wants to show complete dominance after this move. Nc7 is now a mate threat! **21...Qf7 22.Nc7+** First the intermediary check and then White will be ready to capture the hanging Rook! **22...Kf8 23.Qxh7** Intending Bc3xg7+ and mate. **23...Rc8**



24.Bxg7+! Beautiful ending of the beautiful game! Another sacrifice that Black needs to accept and then it will be definitely game over after 24...Qxg7 25. Ne6!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/ Black=1.30

1-0

C27

☐ **Theory**

■ **11.c3**

Survey

[Bangiev,Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nxe4 4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Bb3 Nc6 6.Nb5 g6 7.Qf3 f5 8.Qd5 Qe7 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 b6! 11.c3N Against Nc6-d4

[11.Qd3 Bb7 12.Ne2 f4 13.0-0 Bg7 14.f3 e4 15.fxe4 Nxe4 16.Qd5 Nd4 17.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 18.Nxd4 Ng3 19.hxg3 fxg3 Rabette,P-Craig,C 398 Linz 2012 0-1]

[11.d3 Bb7 12.h4 f4 13.Qf3 Nd4 14.Qg4 Bxa8 15.Bd2 N6f5 16.c3 h5 17.Qxg6 Nxb3 18.axb3 Nxh4 19.Rxh4 Qxh4 20.Rxa7 Bc6 21.Nf3 Qe7 22.Ng5 Kc8 23.Nf7 Kb8 24.Qxc6 Langeweg,C (2260)-Kameshwaran,V (2480) Game No. 115 (THE TWO BISHOPS) (3) 1-0]

[11.Nxb6 axb6 12.d3 Bb7 13.Qf3 Nd4 14.Qh3 e4 15.Be3 exd3 16.0-0-0 Nxc2 17.Bxb6+ Ke8 18.Qxd3 Bh6+ 19.Kb1 Be4 20.Bxc2 Bxd3 21.Bxd3 Bg7 22.Bc5 Qe5 23.Ba3 Ne4 24.Nf3 Qa5 25.Rhe1 d5 10) Italian 4...Bc5 5.c3 - Ov-Marques,V Heart of Finland op 07th 1997 ½-½]

11...Bb7

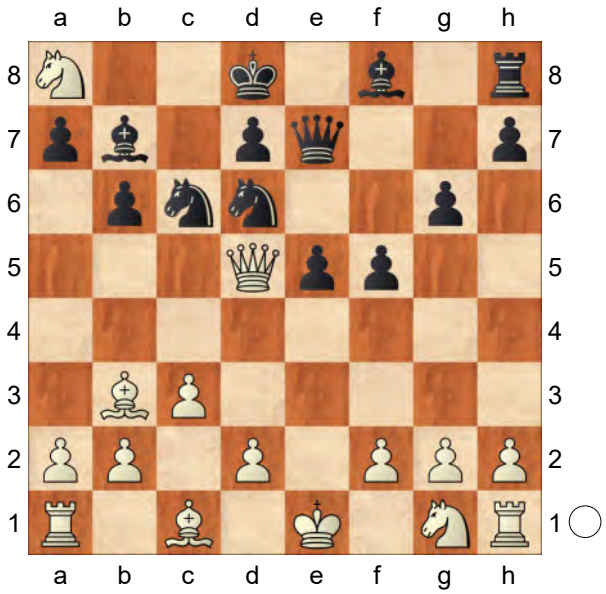
(Diagram)

...Nc6-d4 would now be deadly.

12.Nxb6! axb6

[12...Nb4 1.91/22 12...a7xb6 0.58 13.cxb4 Bxd5? 3.06/19 *(13...axb6±* 1.49/23 *14.Qd3 Bxg2)* 14.Nxd5±]

13.Qd3 Bg7 1.13/18 Estrin

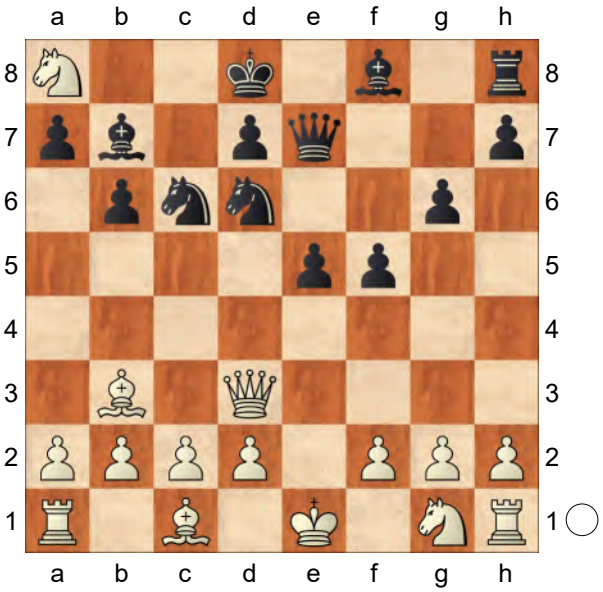


[13...Nd4 aiming for ...Nd4xb3.
A) 14.cxd4?! Bxg2 15.d5 -0.74/20 *(15.dxe5!= 0.21/21 Qxe5+ 16.Qe3 Qxe3+ 17.dxe3)*
A1) 15...Ne4 And now ...Qe7-h4! would win. 16.Qe3 -1.28/18 *(16.Qb5!= -0.22/20* remains equal. *Qc5 17.Qxc5 Nxc5 18.Bc4)* 16...Qb4 Strongly threatening ...Bf8-c5! 17.a3 Qb5 18.Nf3± Egorov-Plasteev/corr(URS) 1974;
A2) 15...Bxh1∓ 16.f3? -3.37/19 *(16.Ne2!∓ -0.69/20)* 16...e4∓;
B) 14.Qh3 Nxb3 15.axb3 Black must now prevent Ng1-e2. Qe6 1.74/19 *(*Better is *15...f4±* 0.53/21 *)* 16.Nf3±]
[13...f4± 0.48/23]
14.Qe3 Kc7 15.d3 f4 1.04/21
[15...Re8!± 0.61/21 is more appropriate.]
16.Qe2∞ White took control after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise)

C27

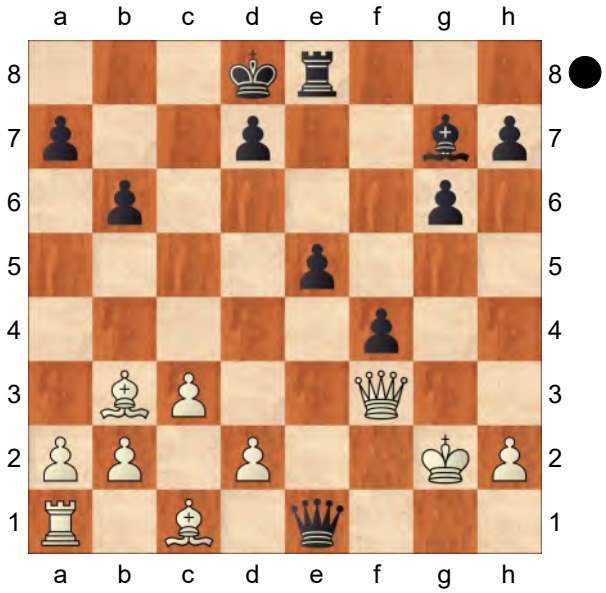
☐ **Theory**
■ **11.♕d3**
Survey
[Bangiev,Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nxe4 4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Bb3 Nc6 6.Nb5 g6 7.Qf3 f5 8.Qd5 Qe7 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 b6! 11.Qd3 Bb7



12.Ne2! Bxa8
[12...f4 13.0-0! Bg7 14.f3 0.57/21 *(14.Qh3!± 1.07/21)* 14...e4± 15.fxe4 aiming for Na8xb6! Nxe4 1.63/20 *(15...g5± 0.81/19* is a better defense. *)* 16.Qd5?? -3.80/20 *(16.Rxf4!+- 1.63/20 Qc5+ 17.Kf1)* 16...Nd4!-+ 17.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 18.Nxd4 Ng3 -1.62/18 *(⌓18...Ng5 -3.76/20 19.Nxb6 axb6)* 19.hxg3-+ fxg3 0-1 Philipp,V-Schuett/corr 7980 1979]
13.Nc3 0.13/20
[13.Qf3± 0.57/19]
13...f4 14.Ne4? -1.52/20
[14.Nd5 -0.70/17 14.0-0 0.53]
[14.0-0± 0.31/19 keeps the upper hand.]

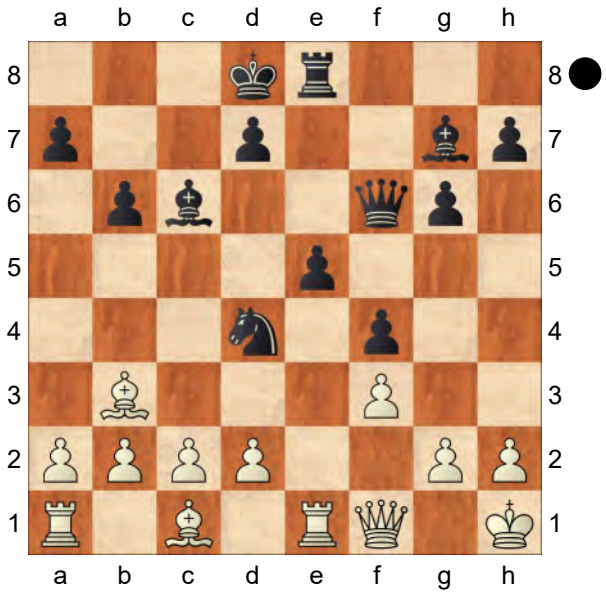
14...Nd4∓ 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.f3? -3.37/21
[16.Rg1 -1.63/17]
16...Bg7-+ 17.0-0 Re8 ...e5-e4 is the strong threat. **18.Re1** -4.41/19
[18.Qa6!]
[18.Qa6 -2.68/21 e4 19.Qxa7]
18...Bc6? -0.89/19
[18...e4-+ -4.41/19 and Black stays clearly on top. 19.fxe4 Qc5]
19.Kh1? -3.38/23
[19.Qf1∓ -0.89/19]
19...Qf6 20.Qf1
[20.c3 Qh4 21.Qf1 Nxf3 *(21...Nf5? 0.00/21 21...Bc6-b5 -2.67 22.Kg1 Bf8 23.d4 Prevents Bf8-c5.)* 22.gxf3 Bxf3+ 23.Qxf3 Qxe1+ 24.Kg2



g5≅ 0.76/21 *(24...e4!-+ -2.14/20 25.Qxf4 Rf8)*]

(Diagram)

20...Qh4! Threatens to win with ...e5-e4.
21.d3N -3.65/20
[21.Re4? -3.42/21 21.c2-c3 -2.16 Bxe4 22.fxe4 f3 ...Nd4-e2 would now be deadly. 23.d3 Ne2-+ 0-1 Philipp,V-



Keller,M/corr 7475 1974]
[21.c3 -2.46/22 was necessary. Bb5 22.c4 *(22.d3? Nf5-+)*]
21...Nf5 22.Kg1 Bf8 Hoping for ...Bf8-c5+. **23.d4 Nxd4∓** White did not feel at home in the position after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.85/Black=0.43
0-1

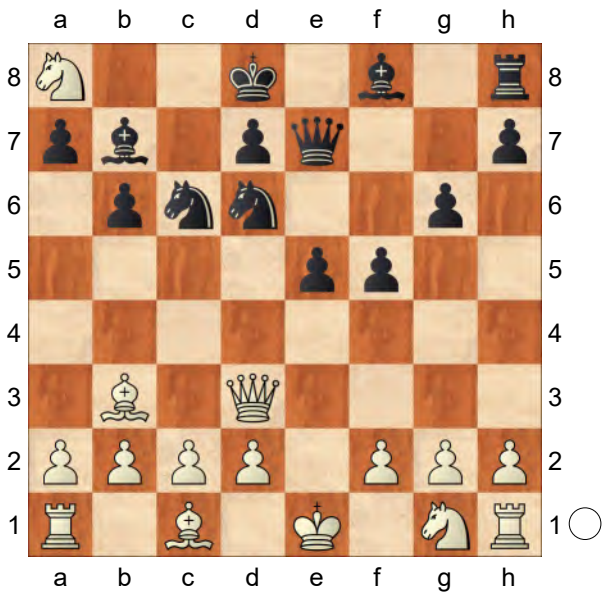
C27

□ **Theory 57**
■ **11.♕d3**
Survey
[Bangiev,Kitty Kat]

C27: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nxe4 4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Bb3 Nc6 6.Nb5 g6 7.Qf3 f5 8.Qd5 Qe7 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8 b6! 11.Qd3 Bb7

(Diagram)

12.Ne2! Bxa8
[12...f4 13.0-0 Bg7 1.33/18 *(13...h5± 0.63/18)* 14.f3 0.85/21



(⌓14.Nxb6! 1.33/18 axb6 15.Qh3) 14...e4 15.fxe4 Ne2xf4! is the strong threat. Nxe4 1.76/20 *(15...g5!± 0.69/17)* 16.Qd5?? -4.92/20 *(16.Rxf4!+-* 1.76/20 was the only winning move. *Qc5+ 17.Kf1)* 16...Nd4-+ 17.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 18.Nxd4 Ng3 19.hxg3 fxg3 0-1 Philipp,V-Schuett/corr 7980 1979]

13.Nc3 White is slightly better. **13...f4** aiming for ...Nc6-d4. **14.Ne4?** -1.28/19

[14.Nd5 -0.89/18 14.0-0 0.53]

[14.0-0± 0.39/19 stays ahead.]

14...Nd4∓ 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.f3? -2.96/20

[16.Rg1∓ -1.41/17]

16...Bg7-+ 17.0-0 Re8? -0.88/18

[17...e4-+ -3.44/23 and Black stays clearly on top. 18.fxe4 Re8]

18.Re1? -4.50/19

[18.Qa6!]

[18.Qa6∓ -0.88/18 was the crucial defense. e4 19.Qxa7]

18...Bc6? -0.91/19

[18...e4-+ -4.50/19 19.fxe4 Qc5]

19.Kh1? -3.24/22

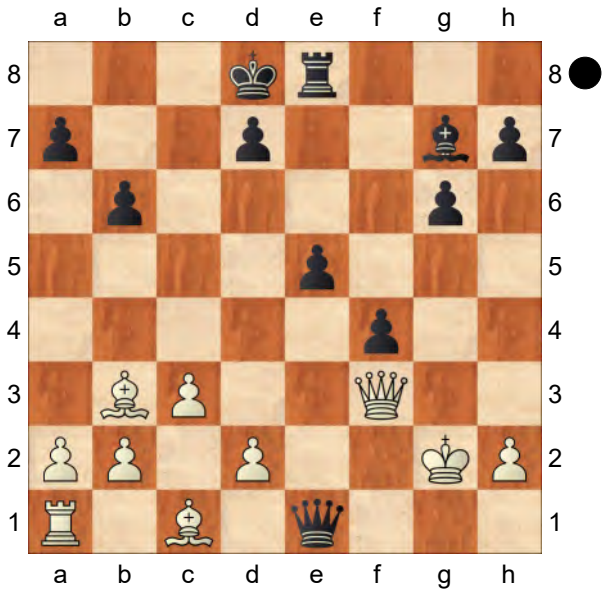
[19.Qf1∓ -0.91/19 e4 20.fxe4 Rxe4 21.Rxe4 Bxe4 22.d3]

19...Qf6 20.Qf1

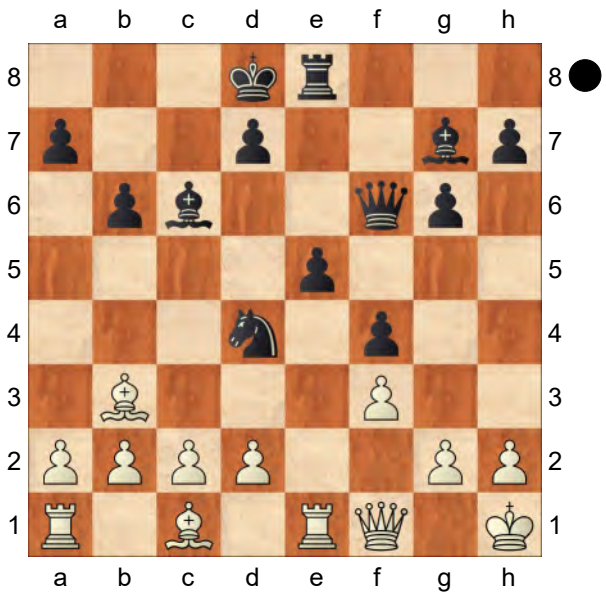
[20.c3 -4.20/25 20.Qd3-f1 -2.66 Qh4 21.Qf1

A) 21...Nf5? 0.30/17 21...Bc6-b5 -2.45 22.Kg1 Bf8 0.72/21 *(22...g5=* 0.10/18) 23.d4!;

B) 21...Nxf3 22.gxf3 Bxf3+ 23.Qxf3 Qxe1+ 24.Kg2



g5⩲ 0.06/21 *(Black should play 24...e4!-+ -2.42/19 25.Qf1 f3+ 26.Kg1 f2+ 27.Kg2 Re5)*]



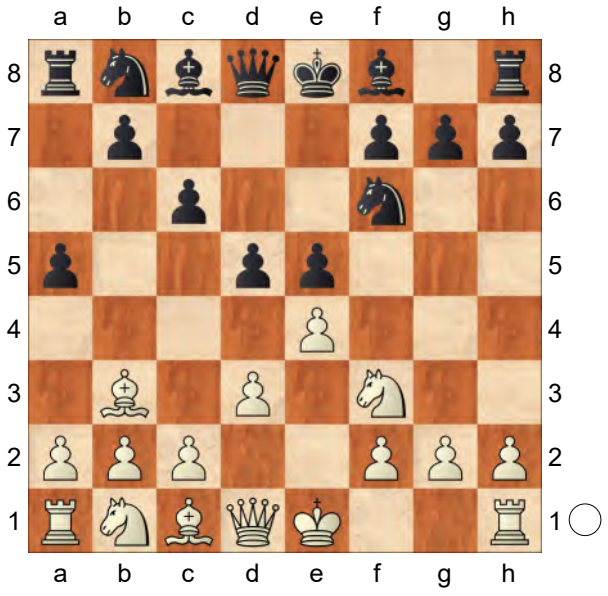
20...Qh4! Black has strong

compensation. **21.d3N** -3.46/19
[21.Re4? Bxe4 22.fxe4 f3 ...Nd4-e2 would now be deadly. 23.d3 -4.23/21 *(⌓23.g3* -2.88/20 *Qxe4 24.d3)* 23...Ne2-+ 0-1 Philipp,V-Keller, M/corr 7475 1974]
[⌓21.c3 -2.14/20 Bb5 22.Qg1 *(22.d3? Bxd3 23.Qg1 Nf5-+)*]
21...Nf5 22.Kg1 Bf8 Strongly threatening ...Bf8-c5+. **23.d4 Nxd4∓** White got outplayed after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.92/ Black=0.52
0-1

C24

☐ **Model Games**
■ **Yu,Yangyi vs. Wang**
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 a5

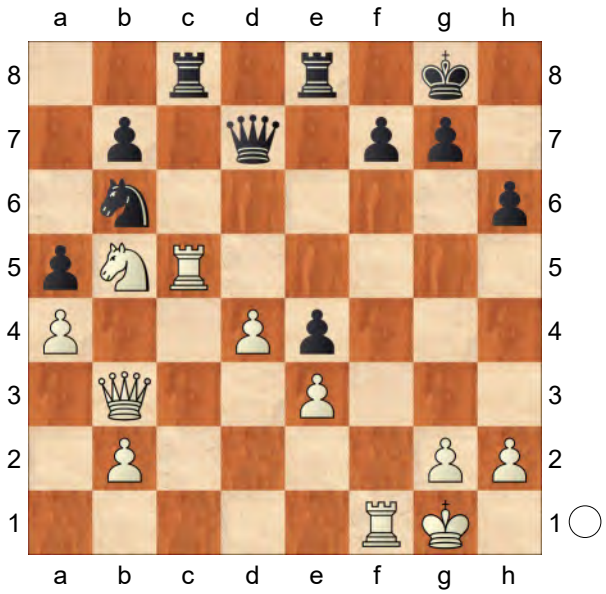


Threatens to win with ...a5-a4. **6.a4** White wants to play e4xd5. **6...Bb4+ 7.c3 Bd6 8.exd5** The position is equal. **8...cxd5 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Na3 Nbd7 11.Nb5 Bb8 12.0-0 0-0 13.Re1 Re8 14.Bh4 Ra6 15.Nd2** White seems a bit better in the arising position, as we have already seen in the theoretical section. White is ready to play d4 and meet Black's e4 with the immediate c4-blow and this center break would put pressure on Black's vulnerable center and White will be able to activate the pieces. **15...h6** This is one of those 'waiting' moves where Black does not know what is White about to do and makes a useful waiting move to see White's idea. **16.d4** This d4 break seems crucial in pawn structures like the one on the board, especially because e4 is forced. **16...e4 17.c4** Altogether with 16.d4! this is another move that gives White quite a promising initiative and chances. Black's center is about to collapse, the e4 pawn will turn out to be weaker, while the weakness of the isolated d4-pawn in White's position will be fully compensated with great activity of minor pieces! **17...dxc4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Nxc4** This is the activity I mentioned in the previous comment. Now apart from having nicely placed Knights, there are also few nice ideas such as Qb3 or Rc1. **19...Nb6 20.Bxf6** Deep positional understanding and a great move by White which strength I have to point out! White gives up seemingly strong Bishop for the 'normal' Knight on f6 but gets better control of d5 square, also 21.Ne3 supports the d4 pawn and afterward with Rc1, White will slowly but surely create a middlegame initiative, as happened in the game! **20...Qxf6 21.Ne3** The Knight has taken its nice blocking position and White hopes for either Rc1 or Qb3 afterward. Pay attention to pretty misplaced Ra6, Nb6, and quite 'good'

but useless Bb8! **21...Bf4N** 0.23/22 Black would like to know what to do with this Bishop too!
[21...Qg6 -0.22/18 might be stronger. 22.Rc1 f5 23.Qb3+ Kh7 24.g3 f4 25.Ng2 Nd7 26.Nc7 Rb6 27.Qd5 fxg3 28.fxg3 Bxc7 29.Rxc7 Rd6 30.Qxb7 Qf6 31.Rxe4 Rb6 32.Qd5 Rd6 27. Bishop's Opening-Bishop's Opening 4.Nf3 #08]
22.Qb3 Opens up back rank, takes better control of the d5 square, and after Rac1 White will create a huge initiative. **22...Qd8 23.Rac1** Rooks should always take open files! An idea could be either Rc5!? or Rc1 followed by Rec1. **23...Ra8** 0.59/20 Black hopes to solve the problem of the inactive Ra6, by playing Ra6-Ra8-Rc8, but after the next move, White seems to get unstoppable initiative!
[Black should play 23...Nd7= 0.05/24]
24.Rc5± Aimes against 24...Rc8? due to 25.Rf5! , also points out how weak the a5-pawn could be afterward as well. **24...Bxe3** Once again CC StartBracket CC like in some of the other model games CC EndBracket CC, Black who was in the trouble, helps White in an already difficult position to launch an attack easier. f7 pawn becomes weak, Rf1 is an option followed by Rcf5 or Rc7 too. **25.fxe3**
[Don't play 25.Rxe3 Rc8±]
25...Rc8 Inhibits Nb5-c7. **26.Rf1** White is more active. **26...Qd7** 1.45/20
[Better is 26...Rf8 0.72/21]

(Diagram)

The more stubborn defense was 26... Re6 **27.Rcf5!±** Nb5-a7! is the strong



threat. **27...Nc4?** 4.12/21
[27...Rc6± 1.10/18 is tougher. 28.Na3 *(28.Rxf7 Qd5±; 28.Qxf7+ Qxf7 29.Rxf7 Nd5±)* 28...Rf8]
28.Rxf7+- Qe6 29.Nc7
Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.29 (precise)
[29.Rxb7 Rf8 30.Rxf8+ Rxf8=]
1-0

C24

□ **Model Games**
■ **Grischuk,Alexander vs. El Gi**
[Kitty Kat]

C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bd6 6.Nc3 d4 7.Ne2 0-0 8.0-0 c5 9.Ng3 Nc6 The position is equal. **10.Nh4 g6** Prevents Ng3-f5 **11.Bg5** -0.27/20
[∩11.h3 0.15/21]
11...Be7 0.42/21
[11...h6!= -0.27/20 12.Bd2 *(12.Bxh6 Ng4∓)* 12...Kh7]
12.Nf3± Kg7 Against Bg5-h6+ **13.h3 Ng8 14.Bd2 h6 15.c3 Bd6 16.Rc1**

[16.Ne2 simplifies Kh7 17.Nh2 f5 18.exf5 gxf5 19.f4]

16...Bd7 17.cxd4 cxd4 18.a3 Qe7 19.Nh2 Slightly better game for White. White can later choose to push f4 or try being more subtle with Rc2 and Qc1, followed by Ng4. While White has an active play on both sides, Black needs to search for a way to activate Knight from g8. Of course, we have already analyzed all of this in the theoretical section of the course! **19...Rac8N 20.Bc4** From this point onwards great maneuvering by Grischuk begins! With the last move, White opens up the possibility for b4 with further expansion on the Queenside, afterward followed by Qb3 at some point, as well as covering c-file without the possibility for Black for further material simplifications. **20...Rc7 21.Ne2** That Knight on g3 had nothing to do with g3 since Black limited its activity with g6. Also, 21. Ne2 manages to secure an easier break on the f-file with f4 and allows surprising retreats with Kh1!? and Ng1!? **21...Be6** 0.79/18

[21...Nf6= 0.16/20]

22.Bxe6± fxe6 23.Ng4 Pretty strong maneuvering move that provokes h5 with weak dark-squares afterward. **23...h5 24.Nh2** Now when the weaknesses of the dark squares have just been provoked, that Knight can come back to its home on h2. It is remarkable how Grischuk found all these moves on such a small number of squares and how he even came up with the ideas that are about to be played. I guess that is one of the main power of Super GMs! **24...Qh4 25.Be1** 0.98/21 This move secures temporary defense of the f2 square and allows possible f4 break if the Queen wants to be there on h4.

[⌓25.g3 1.43/21 Qe7 *(25...Qxh3? 26.Kh1+-)* 26.Kg2]

25...Rcf7 1.39/22

[⌓25...Nh6 0.98/21]

26.Kh1 Now when f2 square is successfully defended, it is time for White to do something with one of the worst pieces - the Knight on e2! With the last move, White has just opened up g1 square for the Knight as Grischuk was patiently looking for a chance to improve the position of his pieces and break on the Kingside at some point! **26...Qd8 27.Ng1** I would like to emphasize this moment of the game. Grischuk plays on just a few squares but managed to find surprisingly good maneuvering resources such as Nh2, Kh1, Ng1, and Be1. **27...Nf6 28.b4** An old good rule, when possible, play on both sides of the board! It is the strongest positional approach in middlegames! **28...a6 29.Bd2** This move improves the dark-squared Bishop and White tries, after all, to take advantage of the weak g5 square. From this point onward, White begins to exploit weaknesses in Black's game. Also, pay attention, how Grischuk still patiently kept on improving the placement of all his pieces with great maneuvering skills! **29...Nh7 30.Qe2** Once again White defends pawn on f2, although this time with the Queen, since he moved his Knight to g1 and Ngf3 is on the horizon... **30...Be7 31.Ngf3** White has not just solidified the position of previously limited Knight on g3 *CC* StartBracket *CC* Ng3-Ne2-Ng1-Ngf3 *CC* EndBracket *CC* but also threatens Rc6 followed by Ne5 with positionally winning game. **31...Bd6** Black defends the pawn on e5 and

consequently the Knight on c6, although, it weakens the h4-d8 diagonal as well as control of the g5 outpost! **32.h4** Points out the weakness of the g5 square and slowly preparing for a jump on the Kingside! Also, pay attention to how the Knights are ideally connected without the possibility for Black to ever sacrifice an exchange on f3! **32...Rc7** 2.08/22

[⌓32...Rh8 1.65/20 33.Rc2 Qc8]

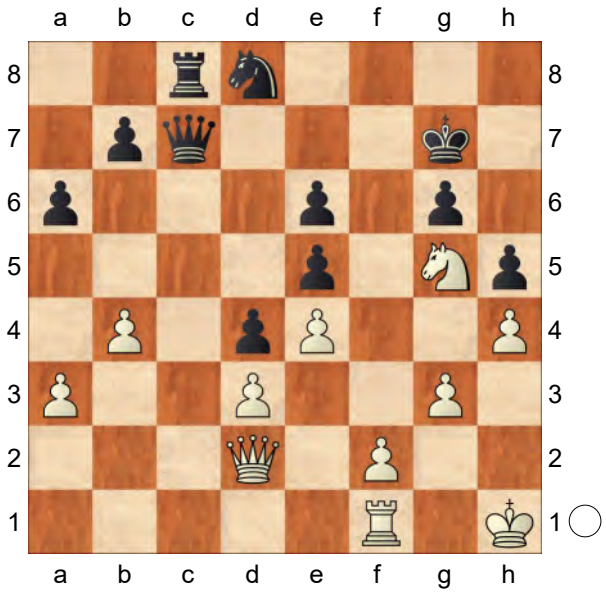
33.Ng5 White clears the way for the Knight on h2 to finally bring it into the game with Nhf3, and could even prepare some Kingside breaks with Rg1 and g4 eventually. **33...Nxg5 34.Bxg5 Be7 35.Nf3 Qd6 36.g3 Bxg5** 2.23/22

[⌓36...Re8 1.82/19 37.Bxe7 Rexe7]

37.Nxg5+- Rfc8 38.Qd2? 0.46/18

[White should try 38.Rg1+- 2.44/20]

38...Nd8± 39.Rxc7+ Qxc7

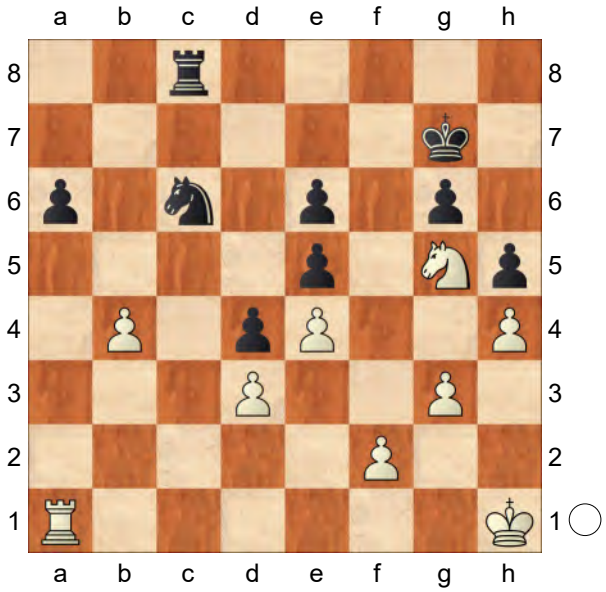


40.b5! Much better was 40.Qa2! pointing out a weakness on e6 where Black would have to defend himself harder. **40...Qc2** 40...Qc3! would be way better and would pretty much prevent White's activity.

[40...Qc3 41.Qe2]

41.Qb4 A great display of an experienced player and the willingness by White to win and succeed! Grischuk finds the only active way to push for a win! **41...Qc5 42.bxa6 Qxb4 43.axb4** Rf1-a1 is the strong threat. **43...bxa6 44.Ra1** After all, Black has too many weaknesses to defend and this is practically a very hard position to hold. **44...Nc6** 1.48/26

[44...Rc6± 0.38/25]



45.Ra4 0.67/25 White is more active.

[45.Nxe6+ Kf6 46.Ng5 Nxb4∓]

[Much worse is 45.Rxa6?! Nxb4 46.Ra7+ *(46.Rxe6 Nxd3 47.Kg1 Rb8=; 46.Nxe6+ Kg8=)* 46...Kg8=]

[White should play 45.Rc1!± 1.48/26]

45...Kf6 1.96/22

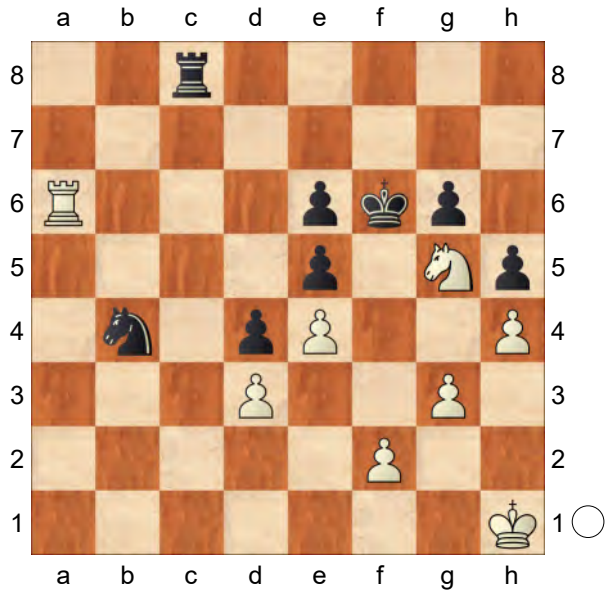
[45...Re8± 0.67/25]

46.Rxa6+- And now b4-b5 would win.

46...Nxb4 #4/21

[46...Ke7+- 2.42/20 47.b5 Nd8 48.Ra7+ Kd6]

(Diagram)



47.Ra7! I enjoyed this game because it clearly shows how one should play this similar type of position. Also, the whole game was a brilliant example of positional play and high ability by one of the top World-class players - Alexander Grischuk, not just to maneuver, but to do that on one part of the board without much space! Finally, I would like to point out one more thing, even though Grischuk won this game, we have to notice that he did that mainly thanks to his outstanding positional skills, so get ready for a hard game and lots of difficulties in a similar type of positions to gain the full point!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.31
[Not 47.Rxe6+ Kg7=]
1-0

C30

□ **Model Games**
■ **So,Wesley vs. Shrestha**
[Kitty Kat]

C30: King's Gambit Declined
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Wesley starts with the Bishop's Opening, but we are going to transpose to our beloved Vienna shortly. Keep in mind that we start with 2.Nc3! **2...Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d3** And we just got to our main position of interest. Now Black has a variety of main lines: • 4...Bc5 • 4...Bb4 • 4...Na5 **4...Bc5 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3** So far so good, all has been studied, and we now arrive at a crossroads. Black's most popular moves are • 6...Bg4 • 6...a6 • 6...O-O • 6...exf4 **6...a6** This is an interesting line for Black, because it defends against one of White's key ideas, which is to hunt the Bishop with Na4! Black now has ...Ba7 to keep the Bishop alive. Therefore we must change the strategy a bit. **7.Nd5** Threatening the concrete fxe5 followed by Bg5 and also preparing to play to push the pawn to c3, controlling the important d4-square. Now Black has a bunch of alternatives. **7...Be6 8.Nxf6+** Spoiling Black's pawn structure. **8...gxf6** 8...Qxf6?? Would allow a typical and deadly trick: 9.f5+- And Black is losing a piece because Bg5 is a deadly threat! **9.f5N** -0.51/18 Slightly inferior according to the stronger engines, but I like Wesley's approach because we are forcing our favorite pawn structure after dxc4!
[9.Bxe6= 0.12/19 fxe6 10.fxe5 fxe5 11.Bg5 Qd7 12.Nh4 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6:-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.N]
9...Bxc4∓ Black is slightly better.

10.dxc4 h5 0.00/22 This move is logical knowing that Black will castle Queenside, and then he will try to put pressure on the g-file with ...Rg8!? The good news is that we will be castling on the same side and then use the Kingside to our advantage. 10...b5 This is what's bothering our little Stockfish friend, but I think it's just a complex game after: 11. Qe2∞ With chances for both sides.

[10...b5∓ -0.52/21]

11.c3= Controlling the critical d4-square. **11...a5** Black's idea is to stop us from playing b4, which was indeed a candidate, but not the first thing on our wishlist. **12.a4** Fixing the Queenside. **12...Qe7 13.Qe2** Defending the g2-pawn in advance and preparing to castle Queenside with Bd2 and O-O-O. **13...Qf8 14.Bd2** With the idea to castle long on the next move. **14...h4 15.h3** This is an interesting and practical decision by Wesley. I would have castled long, with the idea to meet ...h3 with g3!? but then the pawn on h3 is pretty well defended. Wesley's plan is particularly good because it's fixing the weak pawn on h4, which is going to be an easy target thanks to the presence of our dark-squared Bishop, and it is also preparing to maneuver the Knight to g4 by using the h2 square! **15...Qg7 16.0-0-0** 0.60/21

[Better is 16.Nh2± 0.97/21]

16...0-0-0 0.98/22 So far so good, both sides have finished their development without any major complications happening. It's time to assess the position and figure out a plan for White. If we look at King's safety, we can see that nothing dramatic is happening, and we could say that both Kings are relatively safe. If we look for weak squares, we can see that Black has the weak square on g4, which we could use for our Knight. White has a weak square on g3, but the big difference is that Black can't make use of it. Now speaking about pawn weaknesses, we can notice Black's isolated pawn on h4, which is a bit overextended, while White's weak pawn could be on g2 if Black would be in time to double on the g-file. So by figuring out what are the weaknesses in the position we can notice that Black is threatening to play ... Rdg8, and then the best thing that we could do to defend the g2-pawn would be to play Rh2 which is by far not the most active square for the Rook. Therefore we need to block the g-file with our Knight:

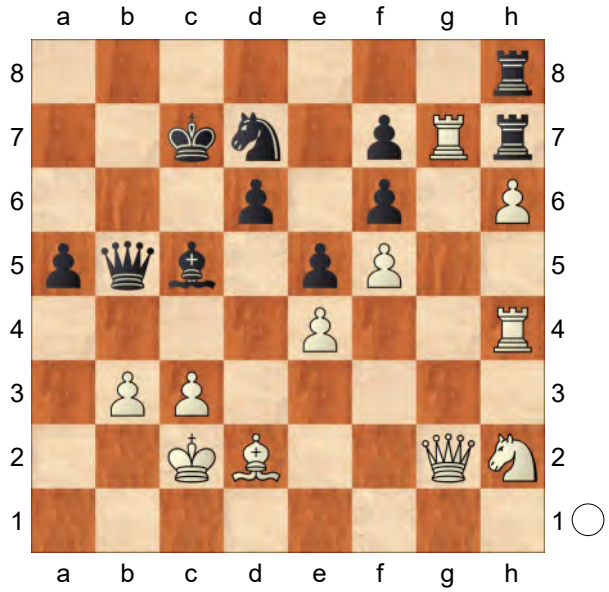
[16...Ke7± 0.60/21 was preferrable.]

17.Nh2 Heading towards g4, stopping all the counterplay on the Kingside. **17...Qf8** 1.21/21 Rerouting the Queen to e7.

[⌓17...Kd7 0.71/20]

18.Kb1 Kb8 19.Ng4 The Knight is active on g4 while completely shutting down the Kingside. **19...Qe7 20.Be1** Keeping the h4-pawn under pressure. **20...Rdg8 21.Rd3** Wesley wants to make progress on the Kingside by pushing g3! On one hand, this will get rid of Black's weakness, but on the other hand, it will give him the outside passer on the h-file! You have to understand that at this point, there was no way to increase the pressure on the h4-pawn, so it's best to just let it go, and focus on our passed pawn. **21...Rg7 22.b3** Defending everything on the Queenside. **22...Kc8 23.g3** The only way to make progress, but good enough! The h-pawn is very dangerous. **23...hxg3 24.Rxg3 Rgh7 25.Rd3**

Preparing to push h4! **25...Rg7 26.h4 Rhg8** 2.08/18 Threatening ...Rxg4!
[26...Rgh7± 1.15/19]
27.Rg3+- Defending the Knight. **27...Nb8** Black is rerouting the Knight to d7 so that it will defend the f6-pawn. **28.h5** The h-pawn is too fast! **28...Nd7 29.h6** Forcing Black's Rook on a passive position. **29...Rh7 30.Bd2** Defending the h6-pawn and preparing to invade on the g-file. **30...Qf8 31.Qg2 Rgh8 32.Rh4** Preparing to play Nh2 without blocking the Rook on h1! **32...c6 33.Nh2** Preparing to invade on the seventh by using the g7-outpost. **33...Kc7 34.Rg7** White is simply threatening to play Rhg4 and Rxh7 with the idea to invade with the second Rook after that. **34...Qb8** Black is trying to seek for some counterplay with ...b5 but White keeps a clear head: **35.Kc2** Defending the b3-pawn in advance. **35...b5 36.cxb5 cxb5 37.axb5** Rg7xh7 would now be deadly. **37...Qxb5**



...a5-a4 is the strong threat. **38.Qf1!** Forcing the Queens off and making sure that Black will get no chance for any tricks. Active counter play! **38...Qxf1** 3.48/20
[38...Qc6 2.11/17 was worth a try. 39.Qc4 Rxg7 40.hxg7 Rxh4]
39.Nxf1 Kd8 40.Rhg4 Preparing to take on h7 and follow up with Rg8. **40...Ke7 41.Rxh7 Rxh7 42.Rg8** Black is completely tied down. Wesley decides to win by creating another passer on the Queenside because the h7-Rook is unable to defend that side of the board. **42...Bf2** 5.64/22
[⌓42...Nb6 3.99/19 43.Ne3 Rxh6 44.Nd5+ Discovered Attack Nxd5 45.Bxh6 Nc7]
43.b4 Maybe not the most accurate way, but a very human move. White is clearly winning. **43...axb4 44.cxb4 d5** Black tried to create some counterplay, but the b-pawn will decide the game: **45.exd5 Nb6 46.Kd3 Nxd5 47.Nh2** Preparing to play Ng4, taking good care of the h6-pawn. **47...Bh4 48.Ng4 Bg5 49.Bxg5 fxg5 50.b5** You can see that White is simply winning because the h7-Rook has to guard the outside passer on the h-file. **50...Kd7 51.Rg7** Collecting everything. **51...Rh8 52.Nxe5+ Ke7 53.Ng6+** And Black resigned. Here is a small list with the key moments of the game: - when Black played 8... gxf6 - fixing the weakness on the Kingside with 15. h3!? - the key maneuver with 17. Nh2! - the breakthrough with 23. g3 - creating the decisive passer with 43. b4!?
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.34
1-0

C28

☐ **Model Games**
■ **Rublevsky,S. vs. Adams**
[Kitty Kat]

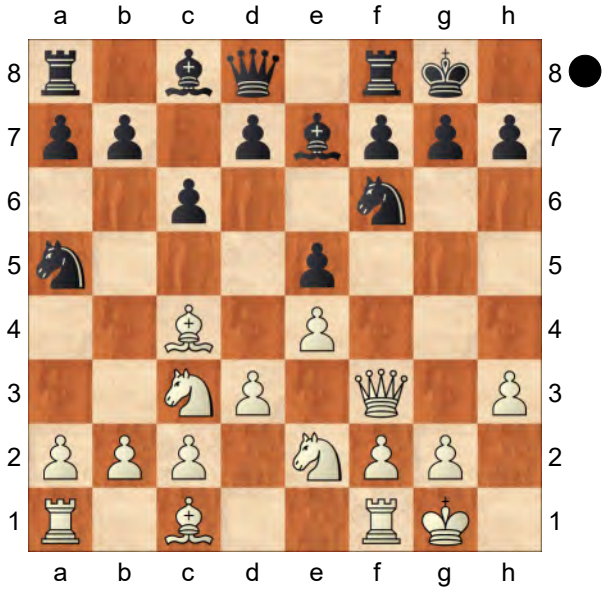
C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
By winning the last round at the Berlin FIDE Grand Prix, Nakamura qualified for the 2022 Candidates Tournament in a convincing way. This decisive game shows one of his biggest qualities, in my opinion: his resourceful defensive play and ability to keep the control in tense positions .Durch seinen Sieg in der letzten Runde des Berlin FIDE Grand Prix qualifizierte sich Nakamura auf überzeugende Weise für das Kandidatenturnier 2022. Diese entscheidende Partie zeigt meiner Meinung nach eine seiner größten Qualitäten: sein einfallsreiches Verteidigungsspiel und seine Fähigkeit, in angespannten Stellungen die Kontrolle zu behalten. **1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Na5 5.Qf3** This strikes me as a bit weird. I don't love the queen on f3, normally she is better placed on d3 after the inevitable capture on c4. In Chapter 2 we faced5. Nf3 and5.Nge2. **5...c6** I like how Adams does not rush to take the bishop. It is not going anywhere.

[5...Nxc4 6.dxc4 d6 7.Nge2 Be6 8.b3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.a4 Nd7 11.a5 a6 12.Ng3 Bg5 13.Nf5 Bxc1 14.Raxc1 g6 15.Ne3 c6 16.Ra1 Qe7 17.Qd1 Rad8 18.Qd2 Nf6 19.f4 exf4 20.Rxf4 Esipenko,A (2723)-Nakamura,H (2750) Berlin FIDE GP 3 Pool-A 2022 (6) 0-1]

6.Nge2N

[6.a4 Nxc4 7.dxc4 Bb4 8.Nge2 d5 9.exd5 cxd5 10.0-0 d4 11.Ne4 Be7 12.N2g3 0-0 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Re1 Re8 15.c5 a5 16.c3 Ra6 17.Bd2 Rae6 18.cxd4 exd4 19.Rxe6 Rxe6 20.Rd1 Qc7 9.b3 ♖e8 10.h3_68766 (2526)-Jones,K (2532) 91/40 Stockholm 2003 0-1]

6...Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3



8.a3 White could have chosen this move to spare himself from what came next, but now of course Black grabs the bishop. 8...Nxc4 9.dxc4 d6 The queen feels misplaced to me and would rather be on d3. Black can hope to expand with Bc8-e6, a7-a6, and b7-b5. He looks a little more comfortable to me but the game goes on. The position is equal. **8...d5!** Well spotted. Black takes the entire center and gains a lot of time doing it. **9.exd5 b5 10.Bb3 b4 11.d6** 11.Ne4 Nxd5∓ f5 is coming next and Black has a nice position with a big center. **11...Qxd6 12.Nd1 Bb7 13.Ne3 c5** Black's pieces are springing to life and he has a much bigger share of the center. Adams still has not touched the b3-bishop, as it still is not threatening to escape. **14.Qg3 Qd7** Wards off Ne3-f5 **15.Ba4** Rublevsky finds a little tactic to

trade off the bad bishop, but this does not solve his issues. 15.Qxe5 Bd6! 16. Qf5 Qc6 Black's Marshall-esque compensation is through the roof. It is surprisingly difficult to stop the direct threat of Rfe8 and Rxe3. Deflection **15...Qe6** 0.32/22 15...Qxa4? 16.Nf5 White wins his piece back, with interest. 15...Bc6 This looked strongest. After 16.Bxc6 Nxc6 Black is a bit better with his extra space.

[15...Qxa4 16.Nf5 *(16.Qxe5? Rfe8-+)* 16...Nh5 17.Nxe7+ Kh8 18.Qxe5±]

[15...Bc6!∓ -0.40/20 16.Bxc6 Nxc6]

16.b3 16.a3! This needed to be played. White opens the a-file and gets some much needed activity. **16...Nd5** Black gets ready for f7-f6, blunting the b2-bishop. **17.Bb2** Ne3xd5 is the strong threat. **17...f6** 0.32/22

[17...Nxe3!= -0.11/24 18.Qxe3 Bd6]

18.Rae1 Bd6 19.Nxd5! Qxd5 20.f4 White does what he needs to do. Adams' play has been far from perfect and he is a little worse here, but the position remains very solid and his extra space could matter. **20...Bc6 21.fxe5 Bxe5 22.Nf4** Really sharp! **22...Qd6 23.Bxe5 fxe5 24.Nh5 Rxf1+ 25.Rxf1**

[25.Kxf1 is more complex. Rf8+ 26.Kg1 g6 27.Rxe5 Bxa4 28.bxa4 Nc6 29.Re3]

25...Qg6 26.Bxc6

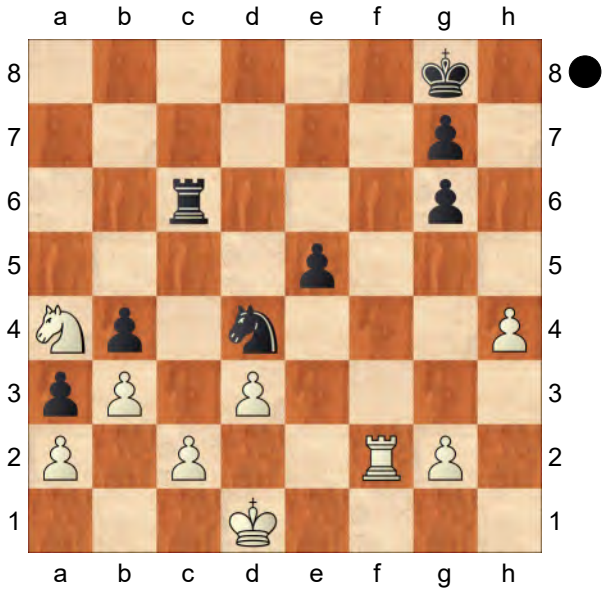
[26.Qxe5? Qxg2#]

26...Nxc6 27.Qxg6 Remove Defender **27...hxg6=** Endgame. KRN-KRN **28.Ng3** Despite Black's imperfect play, he never was in any real trouble, and this endgame is not so bad. White's queenside could become weak, and Adams pounces right away. **28...a5**

[Much worse is 28...Nd4 29.Re1±]

29.Ne4 Nd4 30.Rf2 a4 31.Nxc5 a3 Nb5-c3 is on the way. **32.Nd7 Re8 33.Nb6 Rd8** Against Nb6-d5 **34.Kf1 Nb5 35.Na4** Strongly threatening Kf1-e2. **35...Rc8 36.Ke1** Black must now prevent Ke1-d2. **36...Nd4! 37.Kd1** It looks like White is just about consolidated and can look for Nb6-c4 next, but... **37...Rc6** Now he can barely move! Wards off Na4-b6 **38.h4?** -3.29/25

[38.g4= -0.04/28]



Loses the game. **38...g5!-+ 39.hxg5**

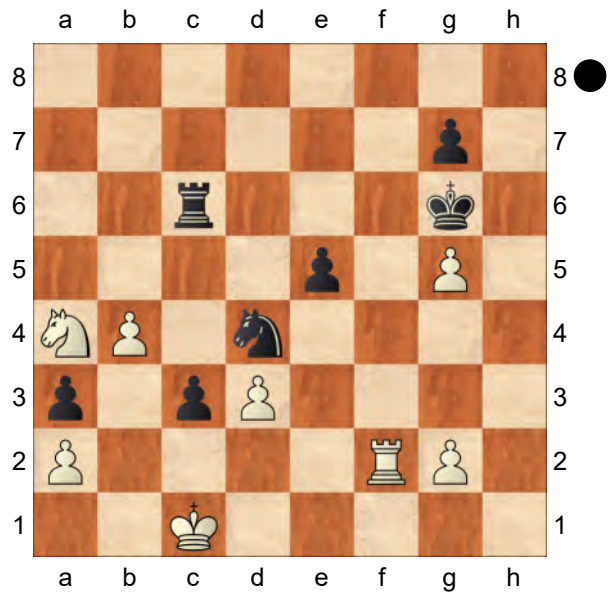
[39.g3 gxh4]

39...Kh7 Funnily enough, despite the two pawns up, White is dead lost. He is entirely paralyzed and none of his piece can move. Black simply brings in the king and takes the kingside. **40.Kc1 Kg6 41.c3** This obviously loses, but what else could he even try? Just wait for Kg3 to come? **41...bxc3** Threatens to win with ...c3-c2! Black is clearly winning.

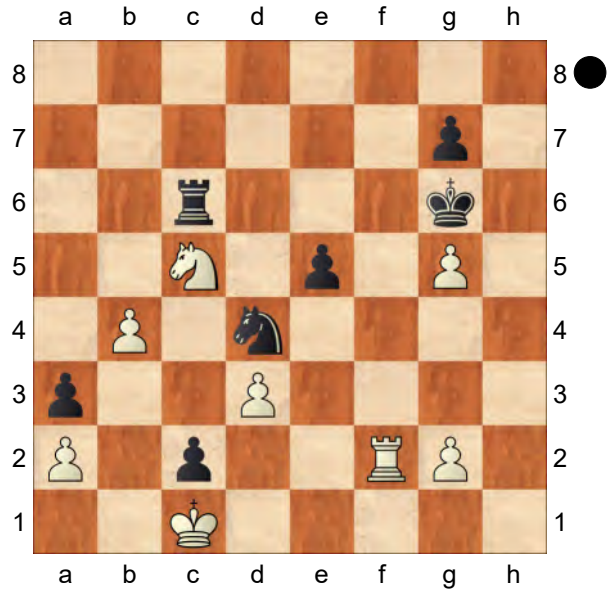
[41...Kxg5 42.Kd2 bxc3+ 43.Nxc3=]

42.b4

(Diagram)



c2! 43.Nc5



Rb6!
[43...Kxg5 44.Rf7-+]
44.Rf1 Rxb4 45.Nb3 Nxb3+ 46.axb3 Rxb3 47.Kxc2 KR-KR **47...Rb2+** Skewer **48.Kc3 Rxg2**
[48...Kxg5 49.Rf7∓]
49.Re1 a2
[Less strong is 49...Kxg5 50.Rxe5+ Kf6 51.Ra5∓]
50.Kb3 Kf5
[Weaker is 50...Rxg5 51.Kxa2 Rg3 52.Rxe5-+]
51.Ka3 Rd2 52.Kb3 g6 Not a perfect game from Adams by any stretch, but some phases he played extremely well. Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/ Black=0.18 (very precise)
0-1

C28

☐ **Model Games**
■ **So,Wesley vs. Mamikoni**
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Keep in mind that our move order is to start with 2.Nc3 , but we will transpose shortly to the position of interest. **2...Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3** And we are back to the main tabia of the Vienna. Now Black has a choice between several main moves: • 4...Bc5 • 4...Bb4 • 4...Na5 **4...Na5 5.Qf3** 5.Bb3 is an alternative, but our main focus is to get the arising structure after ...Nxc4 dxc4 because White has easier play. **5...Nxc4 6.dxc4** This is the pawn structure that we are looking for. Objectively speaking, the position is balanced, but I feel like White has much easier play, and this is also what Jan Gustafsson says in his Lifetime Repertoire. Explaining why he is not a huge fan of the 4... Na5 variation for Black. **6...d6 7.h3** This move is not mandatory, playing 7.Nge2 is completely fine. But you can mix up the move order because h3 is a useful move in this structure anyways. In the theory chapter, I explain why we shall not be afraid of ...Bg4 because White has Qd3 and then we can kick the Bishop "winning half a tempo". **7...Be7 8.Nge2** The position is equal. **8...0-0 9.0-0 c6**

This is a popular way for Black of treating this structure, creating a square for the Queen on c7, but we are quite happy to see it because the d6-pawn becomes a target now. **10.Rd1** Keeping an eye on the backward pawn. Now White's typical set-up is to play b3-a4 followed by Ba3 with unpleasant pressure on the d6-pawn. **10...Be6** **11.b3** Defending the c4-pawn and preparing a4-Ba3. **11...Qc7** **12.a4N** Preparing Ba3.

[12.Ng3 Rfd8 13.a4 a5 14.Ba3 Rd7 15.Rd2 Rad8 16.Nd5 cxd5 17.cxd5 Rc8 18.c4 Bxd5 19.exd5 Qb6 20.Re1 Bf8 21.Rde2 Ra8 22.Nf5 Rc7 23.Qe3 Qxe3 24.Rxe3 Rd8 25.Rf3 Ne8 26.g4 g6 B2 Na5-N,N 27.Ng3]

12...Rad8 **13.Ng3** Wesley starts with this clever move with the idea to meet ...g6 with Bh6! This is why he is not rushing with Ba3 in the first place. **13...Kh8** **14.Nf5** Threatening to take on e7 and then the d6-pawn becomes shaky. **14...Bxf5** **15.Qxf5** Taking with the pawn on f5 would have been a bad idea because Black is in time with ...d5! Plus, keep in mind that we are playing for the weak d6-pawn!

[Much worse is 15.exf5 d5∓]

15...g6 **16.Qf3** **Ng8** Preparing to generate counterplay by pushing ...f5! **17.Qe3** I like this move by Wesley. The point is to sidestep the f-file while gaining a tempo because Qxa7 is now a big threat! **17...a6** **18.Bb2** Watching the enemy King on the long diagonal! White can think about f4 ideas from now on. **18...Qc8** 0.65/23

[18...Nf6= 0.18/18]

19.Ne2 Opening up the Bishop and preparing to get the Knight to d3 from where it supports White's f4-push. **19...Qe6** 0.97/18

[19...Nf6± 0.54/19 is more appropriate.]

20.Nf4± Black might have missed this move. Now the Knight is getting to d3 by winning a tempo. This is not changing the position dramatically because even if Black would have played something like ...Nf6 instead of ...Qe6, White can play Nc1, and then the Knight is reaching the d3-square anyways. **20...Qc8** **21.Nd3** Preparing to push f4. White is more active. **21...f6** **22.f4** **Rfe8** Black is trying to stay solid, but his position is way too passive. White has a lot of ways to improve while Black can only sit tight and wait. This is not a good situation to be in, especially against Wesley So! **23.Rf1** **Bf8** **24.Qg3** 0.96/20

[⌓24.c5 1.55/19]

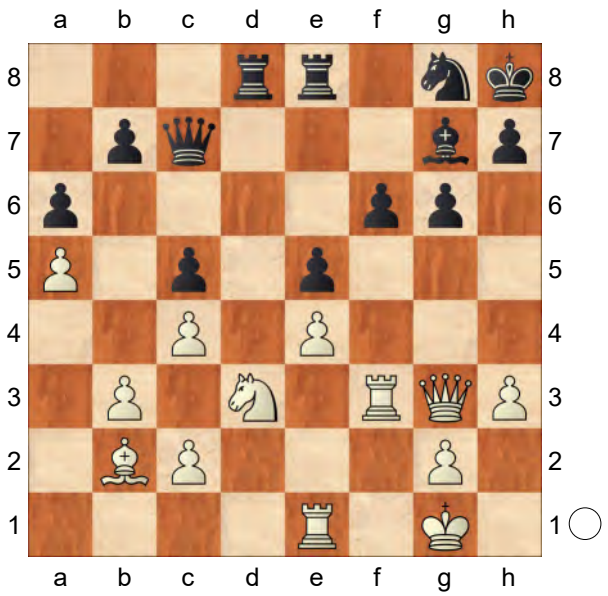
24...Bg7 **25.fxe5** **dxe5** Pretty much forced because 25...fxe5 would have allowed 26.c5! and the e5-pawn will drop. **26.Rf3** Preparing to double the Rooks. **26...c5** 1.10/22 Black is trying to set up a blockade on the Queenside with ...a5 and ...b6, but White is not going to allow it. Black is on the road to losing.

[26...b5± 0.47/20]

27.a5 A strong positional move! White is making sure that Black will not able to defend the c5-pawn with ...b6 **27...Qc6** Hitting the e4-pawn. **28.Re1** **Qc7**

(Diagram)

Threatening ...Qxa5. **29.Bc3!** Now Black is running out of active moves, and we can focus on collecting the c5-pawn with Qf2 on the next move! **29...Ne7** **30.Qf2** Threatens to win with Rf3xf6. **30...Nc6** The Knight is trying to



reach the d4-square. 30...Rc8 Defending the c5-pawn, but allowing a deadly exchange sacrifice: 31.Rxf6! Bxf6 32.Qxf6+ Kg8 33.Bxe5+- And Black has to give up the Queen to prevent getting mated on g7. **31.Qxc5** Collecting the free pawn. **31...Qd7** **32.Qf2** **Qe7** Defending against a potential exchange sacrifice with Rxf6! **33.h4** Threatening to push h5, opening up the h-file for our Rook. **33...h5** **34.Rf1** **Kh7** **35.Kh1** A small useful move, preparing to break with Rg1 and g4! **35...Nd4** **36.Bxd4** **Rxd4** 2.06/18

[36...exd4± 1.40/21 37.Re1 Rd6]

(Diagram)

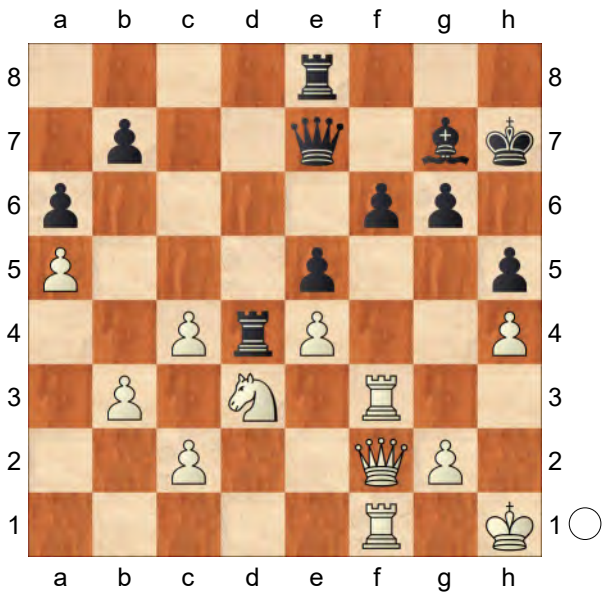
37.Nf4!+- A cute little tactic! The Knight is untouchable because the d4-Rook will hang. White is preparing to get his Knight to d5! Deflection **37...Rxe4**

[37...f5 38.Nd5]

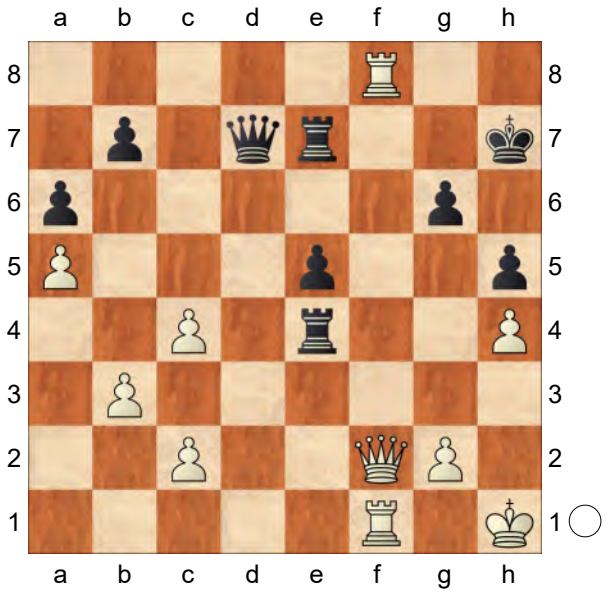
38.Nd5 Now the f6-pawn is doomed. **38...Qd7** **39.Nxf6+**

[Less strong is 39.Rxf6 Qg4+-]

39...Bxf6 **40.Rxf6** Threatening to play



Rf7+. Black must now prevent Rf6-f7+. **40...Re7** **41.Rf7+** Offering a winning Rook endgame if Black decides to take twice! **41...Kh6** **42.Rf8** Threatening to checkmate with Rh8+ followed by Qf8! **42...Kh7**



Against Rf8-h8+ **43.Qf7+** Just a brilliant conversion. Black is no longer able to avoid the endgame. White is clearly winning. **43...Rxf7** **44.R1xf7+** Winning back the Queen. **44...Qxf7** **45.Rxf7+** Endgame. Now the b7-pawn hangs. KR-KR **45...Kh6** **46.Rxb7**

Rxh4+ 47.Kg1 The h-pawn is less relevant because White has way too many passed pawns on the Queenside. **47...Rd4 48.c5 Rd5 49.b4** Controlling the c5-square, preparing to push c5 without allowing ...Rc5! And now c5-c6 would win. **49...Kg5** 6.91/20
[⌓49...Rd1+ 4.53/19 50.Kh2 e4]
50.c6 Rd4 51.c7 Rc4 52.b5 And the a-pawn Queens.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.30
1-0

C28

☐ **Model Games**
■ **So,Wesley vs. Adhiban**
[Kitty Kat]

C28: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Wesley starts with the Bishop's Opening, but we are going to transpose into our beloved Vienna shortly. Keep in mind that we start by playing 2.Nc3! **2...Nf6 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3** And we arrived at the main position of interest. Black has a big choice between • 4...Bc5 • 4...Bb4 • 4...Na5 **4...Na5** The young "beast" decides to go for the Bishop hunt! In case you were not familiar with it, this is Adhiban's nickname, but who am I trying to fool? Everyone checked out the Lifetime Repertoire with 1. b3! **5.Qf3 d6** At this point we deviate a bit from the other game of Wesley against Mamikonian. That game featured the most popular 5...Nxc4 , but Black is not forced to take the Bishop immediately, and some players try to be tricky and delay it for a bit, as explained in great depth in the theory chapter. **6.h3 Be7 7.Nge2** Preparing O-O. **7...0-0 8.0-0** The position is equal. **8...c6** With the idea to push ...b5 and later on take on b3, this way eliminating the light-squared Bishop and avoiding our favorite pawn structure arising after ...Nxc4 dxc4! **9.a4** I like this move because it's forcing the game in the direction that we want. If you are looking at it with an engine, it's not going to appreciate it any single bit. Some of the engines might even slightly prefer the move 9. Ng3, but here is the catch: We need to direct the game into familiar territory for us, where we understand the plans and the key ideas rather than blindly following the computer's thoughts. 9.Ng3 White probably underestimated Black's plan of pushing ...b5 and probably thought that ...Nxc4 is going to be played nonetheless, so he decided to just play a natural move, thinking that it is all just going to "transpose". 9...b5! A pretty unpleasant surprise, if you are not familiar with it! 10.Bb3 g6! Stopping Nf5 ideas. 11.Bh6 Re8 12.Nd1 White was already lacking a constructive plan, suffering from the 9... b5! deviation. 12...Nxb3 13.axb3∞ White was playing without a plan, and Black spotted his chance in the game: Sanchez Jerez,E ᏟᏟStartBracket ᏟᏟ2257 ᏟᏟEndBracket ᏟᏟ -Liang,A ᏟᏟStartBracket ᏟᏟ2496 ᏟᏟEndBracket ᏟᏟ Caleta 2017 **9...Nxc4** Forced, otherwise White will manage to save the Bishop with Ba2! **10.dxc4 Be6** Threatening ...Bxc4! **11.b3 Qa5** This is where we slightly deviate from Mamikonian's ...Qc7 set-up. Black can go a bit more aggressive like Adhiban played, but the character of the position remains the same. 11...Qc7 This is

the alternative square for the Queen. 12. Rd1 And we are back into the So,W CC StartBracket CC 2531 CC EndBracket CC -Mamikonian,T CC StartBracket CC 2257 CC EndBracket CC Yerevan 2007 game that we covered previously. **12.Rd1** Activating the Rook. **12...Rfd8** **13.Bd2** Threatening to jump on d5 with the Knight. This is where a small Bishop dance starts. It is very complex, and probably Adhiban was a bit confused during the game too, because it looks like Wesley simply starts repeating the moves, but we will come back to that once the maneuver is over. 13.Ba3 Looks ideal, but Black has a lot of play after: 13...a6⇄ And with ...b5 next, Black is doing just fine. **13...Qc7** **14.Be3** Preparing to play the standard maneuver with Ng3-Nf5. **14...Qa5** Black is trying to harass White by not allowing him to go for the ideal Ng3-Nf5 maneuver by keeping the c3-Knight under pressure.

[14...Rd7 15.Rd3 Qa5 16.Rad1 Rad8 17.Bd2 Qc7 18.Be3 Qa5 19.Bd2 Qc7 20.Be3 a6 21.g4 b5 22.axb5 axb5 23.g5 Ne8 24.cxb5 cxb5 25.R3d2 b4 26.Nd5 Bxd5 27.exd5 Ra8 28.Qg3 Qd8 29.h4 Tischbierek,R (2506)-Almasi,Z (2676) AUT-chT 0203 2002 (8) ½-½]

15.Bd2 Threatening Nd5 again. **15...Qc7** **16.Bg5N** Now that Wesley knows what Adhiban is up to, he is changing the strategy and goes all the way to g5, with the idea to provoke a weakness on the Kingside. In the meantime, the same Ng3-Nf5 is possible. **16...h6** And the weakness does come! **17.Be3** Threatening Ng3-Nf5. **17...Qa5** Keeping the c3-Knight under pressure, making it harder for us to get the desired Ng3-Nf5. **18.Bd2** Threatening Nd5 once again. Nc3-d5! would now be deadly. **18...Qc7** **19.Bc1** Changing the strategy! Now that we managed to get an additional weakness on the Kingside after Black played h6, we can switch to the Ba3/Bb2 plan. Keep in mind that we neet do watch out for Black's ...d5! before going for our typical plan with Ng3-Nf5. 19.Ng3?! Would be logical but premature because of : 19...d5⇄ And suddenly Black's pieces are working very well together. **19...Rd7** 19...Qa5 I feel like this would have been a more stubborn approach. 20.Bb2! Defending the c3-Knight with the simple idea to play Ng3-Nf5. 20.Ba3 Would be the ideal square for the Bishop with the idea to play Rd3-Rad1, but Black has a good resource here: 20...a6⇄ And I couldn't find a good way to stop ...b5! I feel like Black should be fine here. 20...Bf8 This is the more passive alternative, but I like White's position after: 20...d5 This is a concrete approach, but Black can go for it if he wants to force the matters. 21. exd5 cxd5 22.cxd5 We are forced to trade in the center, otherwise Black can push his pawns. 22...Nxd5 23.Nxd5 Bxd5 And now I like going: 24.Qg4! Keeping an eye on the Kingside. 24... Bc6 25.Ng3± With Nf5 ideas, I like White's potential on the Kingside. 21. Ng3± And we can slowly build up the pressure with Nf5 and Rd3-Rad1. **20.Ng3** Preparing to jump with the Knight on f5. **20...Rad8** **21.Ba3** Stopping Black from pushing ...d5 before jumping on f5 with the Knight! This is the key move to keep everything under control, and we can start squeezing now. 21.Nf5?! This is the correct idea, but not the good timing!

21...Bxf5 22.Qxf5 d5⇄ And suddenly Black becomes active. **21...Qa5** 0.44/22 Black is not giving White an easy game! The Queen is keeping the c3-Knight under pressure and giving us a hard time with getting Nf5 in. Keep in mind that the immediate Nf5 would be met by ...Bxf5, and then Black is ready to strike with ...d5! Therefore we have to defend the c3-Knight at first by playing: 21...d5?? It's simply not working tactically: 22.Bxe7 Threatening to take on d8. 22...Rxe7 23.exd5 And White simply wins a pawn: 23...cxd5 24.cxd5+- Black is unable to contest the d5-pawn.

[21...Bf8= 0.01/20]

22.Rd3 Keeping the c3-Knight well defended and preparing to jump on f5 with the Knight. 22.Nd5!? I want you to keep in mind that this move is also a typical trick because the e6-Bishop is trapped. The problem here though is that there will be an annoying ...Bxh3 at the end of the line: 22...cxd5 23.cxd5 White is regaining the piece, but Black has a good way to give it back: 23...Bxh3! Weakening White's King! 24.gxh3 Nh7∞ And Black has good counterplay on the Kingside.

[22.Nd5!? Bxd5 *(22...cxd5 23.cxd5 Bxd5 24.exd5±)* 23.cxd5±]

22...a6 Adhiban does the right thing. He is preparing to push ...b5, but his counterplay comes a bit too late, and Wesley finds the most precise reaction: **23.Nf5** Threatening Nxe7 and the d6-pawn drops. **23...Bxf5 24.Qxf5 b5** This was well prepared by Adhiban, but White has a strong response: **25.axb5** Opening up the Rook. **25...axb5 26.cxb5** Weakening the d5-square. **26...cxb5** Threatening to push ...b4! **27.Ra2!** This is the brilliant move that changed the game! White is threatening Bxd6 because the a2-Rook is well defended by the c3-Knight, and ...b4 can be met by Bc1. The a2-Rook is not only active, but it's also defending the c2-pawn, which is a huge factor when considering to jump on d5 with the Knight! 27.Bb2 This is playable, but no longer better for White because Black can play: 27...Qc7 And Nd5 is no longer working because the c2-pawn is vulnerable. 28.Nd5?? Qxc2-+ Black is simply winning. **27...b4 28.Bc1** Preparing to play Nd5 under good conditions on the next move, because the c2-pawn is well protected by the a2-Rook. 28.Bb2?? Would be terrible in view of: 28...Qc5-+ And the c2-pawn hangs. **28...Qb6 29.Nd5** White is more active. **29...Nxd5 30.Rxd5** Suddenly we have a Sicilian type of structure which has gone terribly wrong for Black because White is dominating the key d5-square. **30...Rc7 31.Qg4** Threatening Bxh6. **31...Kh7 32.Qe2** Bringing the Queen closer to the center because there is nothing more to do on the Kingside for now.

[32.Be3 keeps more tension. Qc6 33.Rda5 Rb8 34.Bd2]

32...Rb8 33.Bd2 Keeping an eye on the b4-pawn. **33...Qc6 34.Qd3** 0.44/23 Preparing to push f4.

[Better is 34.Rda5± 0.85/21]

34...Bf8 0.95/20

[Black should try 34...Ra8!± 0.44/23 35.Rxa8 Qxa8]

35.f4 0.31/20 Preparing to push f5! Keep in mind that ...exf4 can be met by e5+! because the d3-Queen is opening up against the enemy King.

[35.Rda5± 0.95/20]

35...Kg8 36.f5 Be7 37.Kh2 Just a solid

move, sidestepping the g1-a7 diagonal. **37...Kh7 38.Rda5** Preparing to play R5a4 ➳ attacking the b4-pawn. Notice that the a2-Rook needs to stay there to protect the c2-pawn. **38...Qb7 39.R5a4** Threatening Rxb4! **39...d5!** A good practical chance, trying to complicate the game by sacrificing two pawns and activating the Bishop. **40.exd5** Strongly threatening f5-f6+.

[40.Qxd5 Qxd5 41.exd5 Rb5]

40...e4! The point of the previous move, Black has to give up another one to open up the dark-squares. **41.Qxe4 Bd6+!** The Bishop is activating, but White can easily shut things down by playing: **42.Bf4 Re8!** A tricky attempt! Deflection **43.Qd4** Wesley correctly rejects Adhiban's offer! 43.Qxe8 Taking the bait would completely turn the tables after: 43...Bxf4+ 44.g3 Bxg3+!! Opening up the white King. 45.Kxg3 Rc3+ 46.Kf2 Qxd5∓ And it's suddenly Black who is having all the fun here.

[43.Qxe8? perishes. Bxf4+ 44.g3 Bxg3+ 45.Kxg3 Rc3+ 46.Kf2 *(46.Kh4 is a self mate. Qb6)* 46...Qxd5-+]

43...Bc5 44.Qd3 Rd7 45.d6 Threatening to play Ra5. Black's idea to go for simplifications is not bad, but he missed Wesley's 49th move! Ra4-a5 is the strong threat. **45...Qe4** 0.86/24

[45...Re4± 0.45/23 is more appropriate. 46.Ra5 Rd4]

46.Qxe4± Rxe4 47.Bg3 0.21/21

[47.Kg3± 0.63/22 feels stronger. Bxd6 48.Bxd6 Rxd6 49.Kf3]

47...Bxd6 1.08/23 This was the idea behind 45...Qe4!? but it clearly shows that Black missed White's trick! Playing 47...h5!? would have still kept drawing chances, but now the endgame becomes difficult for Black after:

[47...h5!= 0.21/21 keeps the balance. 48.Ra5 Bxd6]

48.Bxd6 Rxd6= Endgame. KRR-KRR **49.c4** This clearly came as a shocker to Adhiban because ...bxc3 drops the e4-Rook! Now the b4-pawn is in big trouble. **49...Rd1?** 3.46/21 Adhiban is seeking for active counterplay, but Wesley just plays with computer precision: 49...Rb6 Would have been met by the precise: 50. Ra5+- With Rb5 on the next move, Black is in deep trouble.

[49...h5± 1.14/21 might work better.]

50.Ra7!+- Threatening the deadly Rxf7.

[50.Rxb4 h5 51.Rb7 h4±]

50...Kg8 51.Ra8+ Kh7 52.Rf8 Setting up an unpleasant mating net because the f5-pawn is taking away the escape g6-square. **52...Re7 53.Raa8** Threatening to checkmate with Rh8# **53...g5 54.f6** Forcing Black to give up the f7-pawn because Rg8-Rg7 is a massive threat. Intending Rf8-g8! and mate. Deflection **54...Re6 55.Rxf7+** Now Black's King is weak. **55...Kg6 56.Rff8** 1.36/19

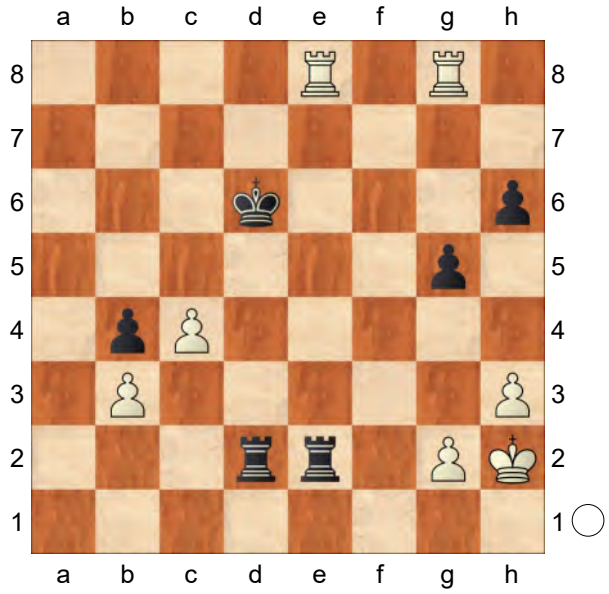
[56.Rb7+- 3.21/22 Kxf6 57.Rf8+ *(57.Rxb4 Rd2+-)* 57...Kg6 58.Rxb4]

56...Rd2? 5.03/21 A clever attempt by Black to double on the second rank and play for the perpetual check, but Wesley sees everything! 56...Rxf6 Taking the pawn was not helping. 57.Rxf6+ Kxf6 58.Rb8+- And White wins the b-pawn and the game thanks to the two connected passers. A mistake that costs the game.

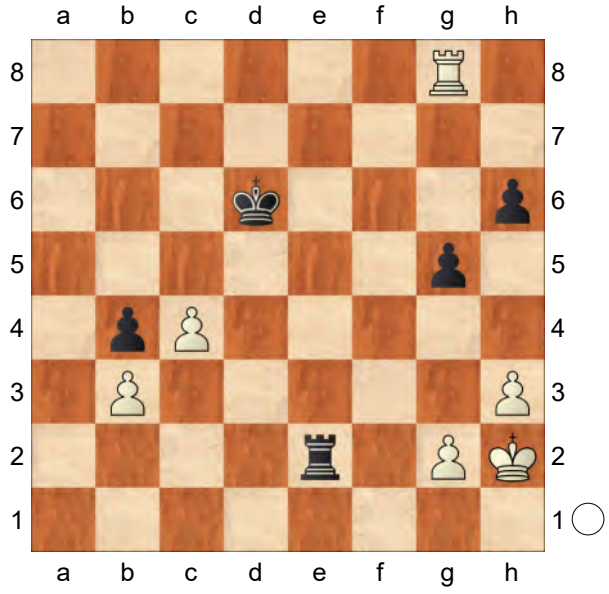
[56...Rb1± 1.36/19 is more resistant.]

57.f7 Not only meant to Queen but seeking to trade one of Black's Rooks. **57...Ree2** Had to be tried. **58.Rg8+** Very precise. Black can't avoid the Rook

trade now. **58...Kxf7** **59.Raf8+** Forcing the King on the e-file. **59...Ke6** **60.Re8+** And after the Rook trade Black has no counterplay remaining. **60...Kd6**



61.Rxe2! Rxe2



KR-KR **62.Rb8!** And the b-pawn is lost because .. .Rc5 runs into the cute intermezzo with Rb5+! and White is collecting the b4-pawn on the next move. **62...Kc6** **63.Rxb4** White is clearly winning. **63...Rb2** **64.Rb5** **Rb1** **65.Kg3** **Rb2** **66.Kf3** **Kc7** **67.g3** **h5** **68.h4** **g4+** **69.Kf4** **Rf2+** **70.Kg5** **Rf3** **71.Kxh5** **Rxg3** **72.Kg6** And Black resigned. Here is a small list with the key moments of the game: - White played 16. Bg5 ➳ provoking the small weakness on the Kingside with ...h6 - White was watching out carefully for Black's counterplay and went 21. Ba3! before rushing to jump with the Knight on f5 - 27. Ra2!! is just a brilliant way to shut down Black's counterplay on the Queenside - 35. f4! making progress on the Kingside - keeping control over the position with 43. Qd4! avoiding Black's tricks - 49. c4! This is the kind of move that can easily be missed in a practical game - the final blow with 57. f7! forcing a winning endgame.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)
1-0

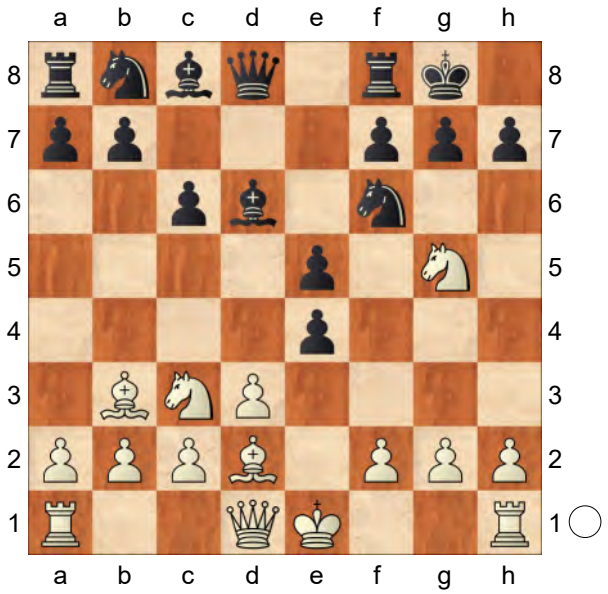
C24

☐ **Model Games**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano vs. Akobian**
[Kitty Kat]

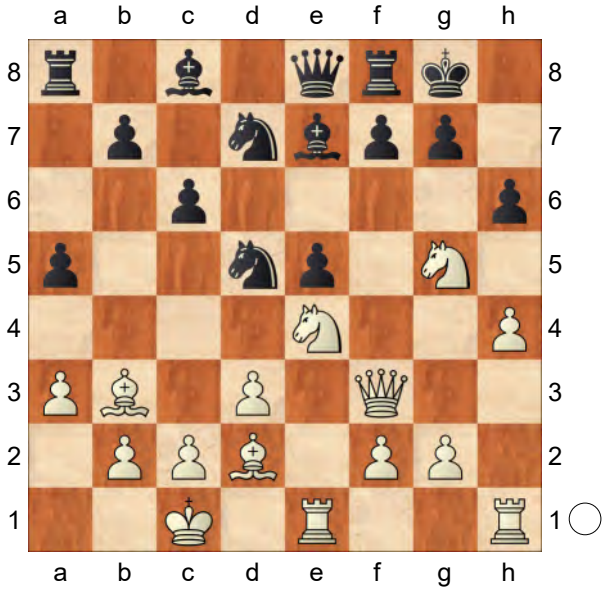
C24: Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6
1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bd6 7.Nc3 dxe4 8.Ng5 White is slightly better. **8...0-0**

(Diagram)

Threatens to win with ...Bc8-g4. **9.Ncxe4** **Be7** 1.03/19
[9...Nxe4± 0.57/21 should be considered. 10.Nxe4 Bf5]
10.h4 0.53/19
[10.Nxf6+± 1.03/19 Bxf6 11.h4]
10...Nbd7± **11.Qf3** Hoping for Ng5xf7.
11...Qe8 1.50/18
[11...Nc5± 0.45/19]



12.0-0-0± White has more active pieces.
12...a5 13.a3 Nd5 2.04/20
[⌓13...b5 1.64/18]
14.Rde1 h6 2.17/19
[14...N7b6 1.70/18 is a better defense. 15.Qg3 f6]



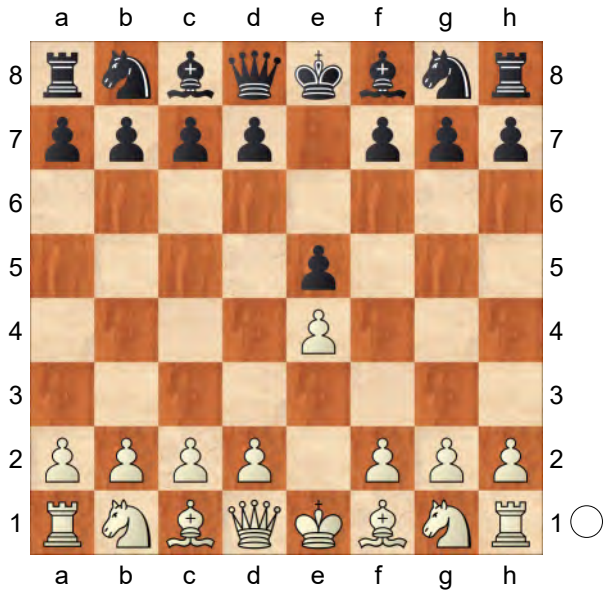
15.Ng3 0.80/19 **Ra6?** 2.42/19
A mistake that costs the game.
[15...N7f6± 0.80/19 16.Nf5 *(16.Rxe5 Bg4∓)* 16...a4 *(16...hxg5? 17.hxg5 Bxf5 18.gxf6+-; 16...Bxf5 17.Qxf5 hxg5 18.hxg5±)* 17.Bxd5 *(17.Ba2 Bxf5 18.Qxf5 Qd7±)* 17...cxd5]
16.Nf5→ White is out for blood. **16...f6** 3.52/18
[⌓16...Nc5 2.21/16]
17.Ne6+- We have already extensively analyzed this line in the theoretical section of the book!
[Less strong is 17.Bxd5+ cxd5 18.Nxe7+ *(18.Qxd5+ Kh8±)* 18...Qxe7±]
17...Nc5N 5.56/18 Akobian attempts to release the pressure at least by removing the Bishop on b3 from the a2-g8 diagonal, but the downside is that the Kingside is about to be absolutely shattered!
[⌓17...Rf7 3.50/17 18.Qh5 Nc5]
18.Nexg7 King becomes vulnerable and left without proper defense.
[18.Nxf8 Nxb3+ 19.cxb3 Bxf8±]
18...Nxb3+ 19.cxb3 Qg6 20.Rh3 Even though the position looks completely winning for White, with this nice move White adds another piece into the attack and Black is about to get mated after Rg3 or be faced with serious material consequences.
[Weaker is 20.Bxh6 Qh7 21.d4 Rf7+- *(21...Bxf5? 22.Nxf5 Kf7 23.dxe5+-)*]
20...Bxf5 21.Nxf5 Kh7 22.Rg3 Qf7 23.Nxh6 Of all of the model games that I analyzed in this course, this one is my absolute favorite! I was an official commentator of the ProLeague for the Chessbrah Twitch channel and Caruana was playing our top board. On top of all that, this was one of the crucial games, and Caruana made this game look pretty convincing and smooth! Ever since that moment, I realized, the Bishop's opening is going to become one of my main White weapons!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.98
1-0

THE BISHOP'S OPENING
1.E4 E5 2.BC4

2025

THEORY CHESS TABLE



C24 1.e4 e5

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	f4 Bc5	Nf3 d6	Nc3 Nf6	Bc4 Nc6	d3 exf4[1]	Bxf4 Be6[2]	Bb5 d5[3]	e5 Nd7[4]
2	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . a6	Nd5[5] Nxd5[6]	Bxd5 0-0[7]	f5 Ne7[8]
3	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . Ng4	Ng5 0-0[9]	f5 Nf6	g4 Nd7[10]
4	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . 0-0	f5 Na5[11]	Bg5 c6[12]	a3 Nxc4[13]
5	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . Bg4	Na4[14] Bxf3[15]	Qxf3 Nd4	Qd1 exf4[16]
6	Nc3 Nc6	Bc4 Bc5	Qg4 Qf6[17]	Nd5 Qxf2+	Kd1 Kf8	Nh3 h5	Qg5 Qd4	d3 Be7[18]
7	. . . Nf6	Bc4 Nc6[19]	d3 Bb4[20]	Nge2 d5[21]	exd5 Nxd5	0-0 Be6[22]	Bxd5 Bxd5	f4 0-0[23]
8	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	. . . . . .	Nf3 d6	0-0 Bxc3	bxc3 Na5	Bb3 Nxb3	axb3 0-0[24]

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	. . .	. . .	. . .	Bb3	axb3	f4	Bxf4	Nf3
	. . .	. . .	Na5	Nxb3[25]	d6[26]	exf4[27]	Be7	0-0[28]
10	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	Nf3	Nxe5	0-0
	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	d5	dxe4[29]	exd3	Be7[30]
11	. . .	. . .	d3	f4	f5	Qf3	Bb3	a3
	. . .	Bc5	0-0	d6[31]	c6	b5	a5	Ba7[32]
12	Nf3	d4	Bc4	0-0	e5	exf6	Re1+	Ng5
	Nc6[33]	exd4	Nf6	Bc5	d5	dxc4	Be6[34]	Qd5[35]
13	. . .	Bc4	Ng5	d4	Qh5	dxe5	exd6	0-0
	. . .	Nf6	Nxe4	Nxg5	Ne6	d6	Bxd6	0-0[36]
14	Bc4	d3	Nf3	Bb3	a4	c3	exd5	Bg5
	Nf6[37]	c6	d5[38]	a5[39]	Bb4+[40]	Bd6	cxd5	Be6[41]
15	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	h3	Qxf3	dxe4
	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	Bg4	Bxf3	dxe4[42]	Nbd7[43]
16	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	Nc3	Ng5	Ngxe4[45]	Nxe4
	. . .	. . .	. . .	Bd6	dxe4[44]	0-0	Nxe4	Bf5[46]
17	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	Ne2	0-0	Ng3
	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	d4	0-0[47]	c5[48]	Nc6[49]
18	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	exd5	Bg5	0-0	Nc3
	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	cxd5	0-0[50]	Be6	Bc7[51]
19	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	Bd2	Qxd2	a3	Nc3
	. . .	. . .	. . .	Bb4+	Bxd2+[52]	a5[53]	Nbd7[54]	dxe4[55]
20	. . .	d4	dxe5	Qe2	Nf3[57]	Bb3	c4	Bc2
	. . .	c6[56]	Nxe4	Nc5	b5[58]	a5	a4	bxc4[59]
21	. . .	. . .	Nf3	Qxd4	Nc3	Bg5	0-0-0	Rhe1[63]
	. . .	exd4	Nxe4[60]	Nf6[61]	Be7	c6[62]	d5	Be6[64]
22	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	Qh4[65]	Bg5	0-0-0
	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	Nc6	Be7[66]	d6[67]	Be6[68]

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
23	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	0-0	Re1+	Qxg7	Bh6[70]
	. . .	. . .	. . .	Nd6	Nxc4[69]	Be7	Rf8	

[1] **6...Be6** This solid move I did not want to cover in the course, but since in online practice lately, I have faced it quite a few times and found it pretty solid for Black, it definitely deserves its place and has to be covered. I have tried both 7.Bb5 and 7.Bxe6 , but it looks like that the first one gives White richer chances! 7.Bb5 White pins the Knight on c6 and consequently threatens pawn on e5. Although, as my practice has shown, we are not interested that much in the pawn on e5 as in breaking the pawn structure after 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.fxe5 dxe5 , in which case Black has lots of difficulties to continue and defend a position with a broken pawn structure and White has a small but long-lasting advantage! White pins the Knight on c6 and consequently threatens pawn on e5. Although, as my practice has shown, we are not interested that much in the pawn on e5 as in breaking the pawn structure after 7...-- 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.fxe5 dxe5 , in which case Black has lots of difficulties to continue and defend a position with a broken pawn structure and White has a small but long-lasting advantage! 7...a6 This seems to be a more solid option than 7...Bd7?! Although, White gets a stable and long-term advantage in the middle-game, due to the better pawn structure!

[7...Bd7 This seemingly more logical move CC StartBracket CC since it avoids the break of the pawn structure as seen in line 7... a6 CC EndBracket CC , turned out to be worse in the practice. Although, in order to find out the best idea in this position, I had to dig deep into the past in the games of Spassky from the '60s and Spielmann from the '30s of the last century! Why is that so bad, you might wonder, well because it leaves the Bishop on c5 hanging with the wind! 8.Na4 There we go! Black cannot control an a7-g1 diagonal anymore CC StartBracket CC Bc5 is about to fall CC EndBracket CC and looks like Black's center is about to crack! Nd4 This is quite an active attempt by Black to get some counterplay but White solves this problem thanks to a forced sequence of moves after 9.Nxc5! 9.Nxc5 Just in time! One of the crucial pieces in Black's position - the Bishop on c5 has just fallen and White is about to reap the benefits of that soon. White can afterward easily make castle short, e5 pawn is about to be taken and Black is in serious trouble. dxc5 This seems like the only move since after 9...Bxb5?! 10.Nxb7! Qb8 11. fxe5! White temporarily takes a pawn, but more importantly after 11...dxe5 takes the important c5 square for the Knight and Black is in a bad place positionally. 10.Bc4 And after the last move White had great game and went on to win in the game Spielmann,R -

Selezniev,A Merano 1924. White has the Bishop pair advantage, threatens fxe5, as well as Bc4 becomes a strong weapon eyeing the weakness on f7 and allowing White a big advantage due to the Bishop pair! b5 11.Bb3 Nxb3 12.axb3 exf4 13.Bxf4 h6 14.Qd2 0-0 15.0-0 Be6 16.Ra6 c4 17.bxc4 bxc4 18.Rfa1 Rb8 19.Rxa7 Rxb2 20.Bxc7 Qd7 21.Be5 Rb1+ 22.Ne1 Qb5 23.Bxf6 gxf6 24.d4 Rxa1 25.Rxa1 Qb2 26.Ra5 Rd8 27.d5 Qb6+ 28.Kf1 f5 29.Qc3 Bc8 30.e5 Bb7 31.d6 Be4 32.Ra1 Kh7 33.Rd1 Qc6 34.Rd2 Rb8 35.d7 Rd8 36.Rd6 Qb5 37.Qe3 c3+ 38.Kf2 Kg8 39.Rxh6 Reference Games-Spielmann,R]

8.Bxc6+ This is exactly what White wants! With the broken pawn structure, White should have a long-lasting static pawn structure advantage which means that White should be ok with exchanges afterward. Black, on the other hand, gets a potentially dangerous weapon - Bishop pair, that could be used successfully if the game gets more open! Keep in mind, that Bc5 remains quite an annoying piece and White has to do something about it. There is no better idea besides Qe2 followed by Be3 eventually! 8...bxc6 Black is forced to play with a quite weak pawn structure, but as mentioned before, hopes for some activity and to be able to open the game for his bishops somehow. White, had something else on his mind, though!

9.f5 A very smart move by White which closes the game and gives White better positional chances to fight the Bishop pair as well as the move Bg5 becomes possible in some lines as an annoying threat since Black can not easily unpin himself and defend the Knight on f6. Even though we have stated how Bg5 could be an option, the main idea by White is Qe2 followed by Be3!

9...Bd7 This was quite expected. I find 9...Bc8 also as a possible option, followed by a5 and Ba6, although, White could easily shut it off and block that Bishop with b3 while after Qe2 and Be3, Black would be left without Bishop pair and with fairly bad light-squared Bishop without activity. 10.Qe2 An important concept in our opening! Not only here, but in the whole chapter where Black goes for 4...Bc5, this dark-squared Bishop feels strong on that diagonal. White has to fight against that and there is no better way but with Be3. Afterward, the game would be relatively simple due to the healthier pawn structure and easy game on the Kingside with even a possibility to go with g4! in some positions! 10...Qb8 Black has to do something on the Queenside and with the last move hopes to create a possible counter-attack along b-file and against b2 pawn mainly against the activity of the Bishop on c1. Also, an idea could be Qa7!? which would prevent our main idea of Be3, as well as even plan like Qb7, followed by O-O-O!? I found few games in the past where Black tried a similar plan with 10...Rb8 but after my improvement 11.g4! White can hope for the best due to nice

aggressiveness on the Kingside as well as a stable game on the Queenside after b3. 11.Nd1 A move of great positional value. It allows White to defend the pawn on b2, solidifies White's pawn structure, and gives more pawn structure flexibility with the c-pawn. Altogether with the previously mentioned continuation, another absolutely fine move is 11.b3 with a hyper solid position and surely long-term advantage due to the better pawn structure or even 11. g4!? for those who enjoy more risky pawn moves and attacking chess! 11...Qb5 There is no specific reason for this move, Black just makes his Queenside more solid, could be that in the case of b3, prepares a5-a4 minority attack, at the same time allows Rb8 or O-O-O, but basically, it does not improve Black's position particularly. 12.c3 A pretty unexpected move in a similar type of position and pawn structures. Gives White more solidity and Be3 is about to happen, while the b2 pawn remains properly defended. While I was analyzing this game, I was expecting and I was more a fan of 12.a4 followed by 12...-- 13.b3 or vice versa 12. b3 followed by 13.a4 , which would point out how weak is the light-squared Bishop on d7 for the rest of the game. 12...a5 13.Be3 White had clearly better position in the game Fedorov, A - Norri, J Pula 1997 and went on to win fast. White's idea could be to recapture by the Knight on e3, supporting the g4-g5 pawn push, and then afterward retreat with Nf3-Nd2 to get better control of the center, have better hold of e4 pawn, and support g4 as well. All things considered, White has a stable positional advantage and Black can not do much, besides sitting and waiting! 13...Bc8 14.0-0 Ba6 15.c4 Qb6 16.Kh1 Bxe3 17.Nxe3 Nd7 18.g4 f6 19.g5 0-0-0 20.Rg1 Nc5 21.gxf6 gxf6 22.Rg7 d5 23.exd5 Rhe8 24.Rd1 e4 25.dxe4 Nxe4 26.Nd4 cxd5 27.Ne6 d4 28.Nd5 Rxd5 29.Qxe4 Bxc4 30.Rc1 Bxa2 31.Nxc7 Reference Games-Fedorov,A

[2] **7...0-0** This is one of the most resilient and natural follow-up for Black who concludes the development. 8.Bg5

[8.Qd2 I have no trouble admitting that 8.Qd2! is an improvement over 8. Bg5!? which was played in the game Kasparov, G - Caruana, F in Saint Louis in 2016. Kasparov aimed to continue after 8.Bg5!? with Nd5 and Rf1, but I am assured that Qd2! accelerates White's development and an attack on the Black's Kingside after O-O-O. Be6 Black intends to exchange the light-squared Bishops and to open f-file for the Rook at the same time taking kind of the center control. However, 8...Na5 is also possible, and after 9.Bb3 Nxb3 10. axb3 White has a slight advantage with an idea to continue with Bg5 and Na4 and to overtake the Bishop pair. 9.Bxe6 White accepts the exchange to open the f-file which will be easily conquered after O-O-O and Rdf1! fxe6 10.0-0-0 White concludes the development with castle and gains a

slightly better position with an idea to play Bg5, settle the King in a safe zone with Kb1, activate the Rooks on the semi-open f-file with Rhf1, and with a possible a3 followed by d4, White will have a full center control. There are also 10.Na4 possibilities but it leads to a game with roughly equal chances. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

8...h6 9.Bh4 Be6 10.Bb3 Nd4 11.Rf1 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 Bd4 13.Ne2 Bxb2 14.Rb1 Ba3 15.Nf4 Bb4+ 16.Ke2 Bg4 17.Qxg4 Nxg4 18.Bxd8 Raxd8 19.Ng6 Bc5 20.Nxf8 Rxf8 21.h3 Nf6 22.c3 Bb6 23.Rf5 Re8 24.Rbf1 c6 25.Kd2 Re7 26.g4 d5 27.exd5 cxd5 28.Bxd5 Be3+ 29.Kd1 Bg5 30.Bb3 b6 31.Re1 Rc7 32.Kc2 g6 33.Rfe5 Kf8 34.Rf1 Kg7 35.d4 Bh4 36.Kd3 Bg3 37.Re3 Bh4 38.a4 Nh7 39.a5 Ng5 40.axb6 axb6 41.Bc4 Ra7 42.Rb1 Rb7 43.Rb5 Bf2 44.Re8 Nxh3 45.Ke2 Bh4 46.Kf3 Ng5+ 47.Kg2 Rc7 48.Rb4 Nh7 49.Kf3 Bf6 50.Ke2 Be7 51.Ra4 Nf6 52.Rb8 Nxg4 53.Rxb6 h5 54.Rba6 h4 55.Ra7 Rxa7 56.Rxa7 Kf6 57.Bd5 Nh6 58.c4 Nf5 59.Kd3 g5 60.c5 g4 61.c6 Bd6 62.Rxf7+ Kg5 63.c7 Bxc7 64.Rxc7 h3 65.Rh7 Nh4 66.Be6 Ng6 67.Rg7 h2 68.Bd5 Kf6 69.Rxg6+ Reference Games-Kasparov,G

7...Bg4 Black chooses the most active developing move with a threat of Nd4 which would put White into trouble to defend the f3 square. 8.Qd2 White escapes the pin and continues with development aiming to play O-O-O! 8...0-0 Black as well continues with the logical development moves. I frequently faced here 8...Bxf3 9.gxf3 Nh5 10.Bg5 Qd7 11.O-O-O and White is clearly better with a Bishop pair and idea to settle the King in a safe zone with Kb1, and to continue activating with Rf1 and Qg2; while after 8...Bxf3 9.gxf3 Nd4 10.O-O-O! does good enough job and gives White full activity since Black can not take 10...Nxf3? due to 11.Qg2! with a completely winning position. 9.0-0-0 a6 Black has the idea to play b5. It is clear that White looks for action on the Kingside, and Black's only possibility to strike back is to look for a counterattack on the Queenside, which is quite a typical strategy when castling on opposite sides of the board. There is also a possibility of 9...Ne5 but after 10. Rhf1! White continues to pressure along f-file both f7 square and even more vulnerable Nf6. 10...Nxc4 11. dxc4 should not scare us due to the inability of Black to put the Bc5 back to e7 and hold the Knight on f6. 10.Bg5 This is a very important move that gives White active play and advantage. Black faces trouble to escape from the pin which will be even made stronger after Nd5! 10...Ne5 Sounds unbelievable but this is the only way for Black to keep the position dynamically balanced while any other move leads to a decisive advantage for White. For example, if Black tries to kick out the Bishop with 10...h6? 11.Bxh6 gxh6 12. Qxh6! comes right away and White is winning with the idea to play Rhf1, followed by Ng5! If Black decides to play 10...Bxf3?! 11.gxf3 Ne5 White keeps the threat of Nd5 after

12.Qg2! Nxc4 13.dxc4 and has a much better position to play with another direct threat of e5! Even more so, White also gains a winning position after 10...b5? 11. Nd5! bxc4 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Qh6! and Black can not escape from the forthcoming Nf6! 11.Nxe5 Even though the engine gives us a good enough possibility with 11. Rhf1 , I strongly believe that 11. Nxe5! leads to direct advantage and is pretty simple and straightforward to remember. 11...dxe5 Now it gets clear why Black's saving move from the pin is only 10...Ne5. By forcing White to exchange, Black clears up some space for the Bishop to go back and to help with the defense! Of course, 11...Bxd1 is not possible due to 12.Nxf7! and after all of the exchanges, White keeps the better position with a pawn up. 12.Rdf1 White simply puts the Rook on the open f-file and piles up the attack on the pinned Knight! 12...Be7 Black is happy enough to have this move up his sleeve, although, it seems is not enough... 13.Qf2 It was expected that Black will answer with 12...Be7, defending against the pin, but White continues to swing the heavy pieces to the Kingside, intending to play Qg3 or Qh4! White has very promising attacking chances after the last move! 13...h6 14.Bd2 If Black decides to kick out the Bishop from the most active g5 square, they create two targets for the possible attack. Pawns on f7 and h6 are exposed, and White aims to play Qg3, indirectly pinning Black's King with an attack on the e5 pawn and the always annoying Bh6 ideas! 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

[3] **8...a6** This is practically the only way for Black to defend a previously mentioned threat of d4 followed by d5. There is also the possibility of 8...d5 , but after 9.e5 Nd7 10.d4 as it was seen in the game Shabalov - Payen World open 1999, White easily crushed Black's counter-chances in the center afterward. 9.Bxc6+ We capture the Knight and force Black to weaken the pawn structure on the Queenside which will be targeted with attacks later on. 9...bxc6 10.d4 Whilst White overtakes the full central control Black is once again forced to step back and to delay development. Not only that White has better pieces here, but White also has a better development. 10...Bb6 11.0-0 With full central control and a healthy pawn structure, White has at least a slight advantage whilst Black needs to take care of the a6, c7, and c6 long-term weaknesses. White threatens to conquer the h4-d8 diagonal and to pin Black's Knight on f6 with Bg5, aiming to continue with logical development and activation with Qd2, Rad1, Kh1 and e5! 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

[4] **10.d4** Be7 11.a3 0-0 12.0-0 f6 13.exf6 Bxf6 14.Qd2 a6 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.Rae1 Bf5 17.Ne5 Nxe5 18.Bxe5

Bxe5 19.Rxe5 Bg6 20.Rxf8+ Qxf8 21.Na4 Qf6 22.Nc5 Rf8 23.Qe1 Be4 24.h3 Bxg2 25.Nd7 Qf3 26.Re8

Reference Games-Shabalov,A

5 **7.f5** h6 8.Nd5 White occupies the light squares and blocks the Bishop on c8. Black's pieces look cramped on the back rank and they do not have enough space to be actively developed. 8...Na5 Black could also try to accomplish the trades and to unleash some space for his pieces with 8...Na5. With a threat of Nc4, this might look uncomfortable for White, but actually, White gains a clearly better position here if we go for the right reply!

[8...Nd4 The only way for Black to relieve the pressure is to go for exchanges which would open some space for development moves. However, White chooses with which exchanges they can benefit from! 9.c3 Whilst White improves central control, Black is forced to lose time making several moves with the same pieces only to trade them! Black is late with development, and White looks for a way to punish the development delay! Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 White used the exchange to develop the Queen and prepares for Bd2, O-O-O, followed by pawn storm on the Kingside with h4-g4! Nxd5 Black continues with trades, hoping to enter a holdable endgame. However, all of these trades only improved White's piece positioning and did not prevent White's operations on the Kingside. *(10...c6* It is obvious that Black can not search for action on the Kingside, so they look for a counter-attack on the Queenside. With 10...c6 Black forces another exchange and aims to open some more space for his pieces after b5. However after 11.Nxf6 Qxf6 White will take advantage of the bad positioning of Black's Queen! *11.Nxf6+ Qxf6 12.g4* White starts with the activation of the dark-squared Bishop and aims to continue with uncomfortable h4-g5 which would put Black's Queen into trouble. *b5* As it was previously mentioned, Black looks for a way to conclude development and needs to fight for the action on the Queenside. After b5, Black will most likely go for solid Bb7 and O-O-O, but that would not stop White to accomplish the advantage on the Kingside! *13.Bb3 Bb7 14.h4* White is ready for g5, followed by f6! You may question yourself why do we delay the castle in this position, but the answer is that White needs to find the fastest way to seize the initiative! White's King is untouchable in the center, and we do not need to hurry to move it away. *0-0-0* Black escaped into a safe zone, but can not defend the Kingside! *15.g5* With a huge space control, White does not stop the harassment! Black is forced to play the only moves, and we continue with the pawn storm! *Qe7 16.f6* With an unbeatable pawn string, Black is once again forced to go for the only move! White will get a passed pawn as the main asset very soon! *gxf6 17.gxh6* With two passed pawns on the h-file and an idea to proceed with Bd2, O-O-O, White puts Black in trouble, trying to defend the doubled pawns on the f-file after Rhf1. Not only that White has more active

pieces than Black, and controls a lot of space, henceforth giving White a decisive advantage. As it could be seen in the game Tomescu, V - Bracaglia, C, Padova 1999, Black does not have a way to defend. After 17...Kb8 18.Bd2 d5 19.O-O-O White is ready for Rhf1 and Black can not defend the f6 spot. *Kb8 18.Bd2 d5 19.0-0-0 Bb6 20.Kb1 Rd6 21.Bc1 Qd7 22.Rhf1 Qd8 23.exd5 cxd5 24.d4 e4 25.Qh5 Rd7 26.Qf5 Qe8 27.Qxf6 Bd8 28.Qf5 f6 29.Rg1 Rhh7 30.Rg2 Ka7 31.Rdg1 e3 32.Rg8 Qe4+ 33.Qxe4 dxe4 34.Bxe3 f5 35.Be6 Bc7 36.Bxf5* Reference Games-Tomescu,V) 11.Bxd5 Black is still chained to the back rank without the possibility to develop the light-squared Bishop. Not only that White's Bishop looks nice on the d5 square, but controls both vulnerable f7 and b7 spots. c6 Black is forced to clumsily push the pawns on the Queenside to detach from all the White's threats. Of course, after a small step back, White will be back to more action on the Kingside! 12.Bb3 Bd7 13.Qh5 White puts pressure on the vulnerable f7 pawn and prepares to activate the Rook after Rf1 and the threat of f6. Black needs to react and to put the Queen onto some suspicious square like f6 from where it can be attacked with g4-g5! Qf6 Of course, if Black decides to defend with 13...Qe7 , White would have a clear advantage with the simple Bd2, O-O-O plan, followed by an undefendable Rdf1, g4, h4, g5! 14.Rf1 And while White includes all the pieces into the game, preparing for h4 and a possible Bg5, Black is unable to castle. Long castling would leave the f7 pawn undefended and short castling would be just a death penalty due to a murderous attack on the Kingside! Ke7 Black is practically forced to keep the King into the center and to hope that White will not be able to reach g5 with a Bishop! 15.h4 And White has at least a slightly better position with a tremendous attack on the Kingside! Black can forget about activation and can only try to defend the position, while White has a simple plan of g4, followed by g5, and can easily settle the King into safety after Bd2 and O-O-O. To better understand the position I recommend you to see the game between Petrushin, A - Bezgodova, S, Voronezh 2007, where White accomplished the winning position after 15...Raf8 16.Rf3 g6 17.fxg6 fxg6 18.Qxh6 Qxf3 19.Bg5 Rf6 20. Qg7! and Black loses a Queen. Raf8 16.Rf3 g6 17.fxg6 fxg6 18.Qxh6 Qxf3 19.Bg5+ Rf6 20.Qg7+ Ke8 21.gxf3 Reference Games-Petrushin, A]

9.b4 White puts Black into an uncomfortable fork and Black needs to decide how to defend from it! 9...Nxd5 This is practically the only way for Black to resist. After 9...Nxc4 10.bxc5 Na5 11.O-O White would be clearly better with a simple idea of c4 and O-O. Black's Knight is marginalized on a5, and Black can not include the light-squared Bishop into the game. 10.bxc5 Of course, White decides to take the more active piece, which is certainly the dark-squared Bishop! 10...Nf6 11.Bb3 With a simple retreating move,

White prevents tripled pawns on the c-file and prepares for the further development - O-O, followed by Qe1 which would force Black to move the Knight from a5 once again. 11...dxc5 12.Nxe5 White repeatedly forces Black to defend and to play the only moves! It is clear that White's dark-squared Bishop will dominate the position very soon, and White has a clear space advantage, with a healthy pawn structure as a long-term asset. 12...Nxb3 13.axb3 Qd4 14.Bf4 And White is clearly better with the easy idea of Nd3 which would force Black to step back with a Queen. With O-O coming afterward, White will be able to further improve the position with possible e5 moves, or simple development with Qd2 and Rfe1. In the game between Conquest, S - Smejkal, J, Germany 1996, Black went for aggressive 14...Nxe4 but after 15.dxe4 Qxe4 16.Qe2 Qxe2 17.Kxe2 Bxf5 18. Kd2 White has a piece up and clearly better endgame to play. 14...Nxe4 15.dxe4 Qxe4+ 16.Qe2 Qxe2+ 17.Kxe2 Bxf5 18.Kd2 f6 19.Nd3 0-0-0 20.Ra5 Rd7 21.Re1 Bxd3 22.cxd3 Rhd8 23.Rxc5 Rxd3+ 24.Kc2 c6 25.Re7 R3d7 26.Re2 Rd1 27.Bd2 Rf1 28.Ba5 Rd6 29.Rc3 Ra1 30.Re8+ Kd7 31.Rce3 c5 32.R3e7+ Kc6 33.Rc8+ Kd5 34.Bc7 Ra2+ 35.Kd3 Rxg2 36.Bxd6 Kxd6 37.Rxb7 g5 38.Rb6+ Kd5 39.Rd8+ Ke5 40.Re8+ Kf5 41.Re2 Rg1 42.Rf2+ Kg4 43.Rbxf6 h5 Reference Games-Conquest,S

6 **7...Bg4** Black's obvious idea after this simple development move is to proceed with the pressure on the Knight on f3 with Nd4, which might be very uncomfortable. For that reason, White improves the center and stops this threat! 8.c3 Not only that White prevents Black's idea of Nd4, but also prepares to gain space control after b4. 8...Nh5 This is the most resilient answer by Black who intends to open d1-h4 diagonal for possible checks and prevents any h3 moves by White, since that would lead to outposts on the dark squares around the King.

[8...Ba7 Black tucks away the dark-squared Bishop, preventing b4 which would come with a tempo. However, White now chooses to play on the Kingside! 9.h3 White starts with chasing the light-squared Bishop. It is obvious that Black can not keep the Bishop on the same d1-h5 diagonal, but has to choose either to put it back onto the passive d7 square or to remove the Knight. Since the light-squared Bishop would be blocked with a possible f5 move, Black's most logical answer is 9...Bxf3 which we will consider here. Bxf3 10.Qxf3 We activate the Queen and we are prepared for the pawn storm on the Kingside! With the Bishop pair, White aims to expand the space control after f5, g4, g5, which would put Black into an uncomfortable position. 0-0 11.f5 It is clear that after 10...O-O, White will turn all the attention to the Kingside. With 11.f5 the dark-squared Bishop gets a diagonal to play on, and Black needs to think about the forthcoming Bg5! h6 This is practically the only move that

provides a defense from the Bg5 threat. Anyway, the pawn storm is coming! 12.Nxf6+ It is very important to understand the idea of 12.Nxf6 move. White aims to expose Black's Queen to attacks after g5-g4. It is discernible that Black's Queen is not going to have any space. Qxf6 13.h4 White's idea of g4-g5 is still the same, but the order of moves has changed. White does not want to allow any checks, such as Qh4, which would lead to a counterattack by Black, but keeps the choke. White's idea of g4-g5 is still the same, but the order of moves has changed. White does not want to allow any checks, such as Qh4, which would lead to a counterattack by Black, but keeps the choke. The full line in the main course can be found here! Ne7 In the game between Lim, Y - Ramu, K, Hyderabad 2005, Black desperately tried to open the center wishing to gain any counterattack, but after this move, Black's Queen is even more exposed. 14.g4 White keeps hunting down Black's Queen, but also, one should not forget that Black's King is alone on the Kingside and will be exposed to a harsh attack! d5 15.g5 Qd6 16.exd5 White easily gained the material advantage and plays for a dominant position with a pawn up, Bishop pair, and easy plan of Bd2, O-O-O, and f6! It is questionable how Black defends out of it. The game between Lim, Y - Ramu, K continued with 16...e4 17.dxe4 with a huge advantage for White who has two pawns up and forthcoming Bf4, O-O-O, and the final touch of gxh6 which would expose Black's King on the open g-file. e4 17.dxe4 Rfe8 18.Bf4 Qc5 19.Be2 Nxd5 20.exd5 Qb6 21.Kf1 Qxb2 22.Rd1 Qc2 23.gxh6 Re4 24.Qg3 Rxf4+ 25.Qxf4 gxh6 26.Rh3 Kh7 27.Bd3 Qd2 28.Qxd2 Reference Games-Lim,Y]

9.f5 White strikes back with well-known move f5, and closes Black's light-squared Bishop, but also opens for the dark-squared Bishop on g5 forcing Black to react. 9...h6 Black blocks all the actions on the Kingside and seems to be active. For that reason, White toggles the play on the Queenside! 10.b4 White gains space with a tempo move and forces Black to multiply play with the same piece which would lead afterward to exchange of dark squares Bishops. 10...Ba7 11.Be3 Not only that White proved the marginalization of Black's Bishops, but Black is forced to accept that an exchange of the dark squares Bishops will be done and another piece will be stuck to the a7 square soon. It seems that Black has no time for normal development, while White improves the position all the time. 11...Ne7 Black's only possibility is to save the light-squared Bishop is to exchange the centralized Knight from d5. However, that does not stop White to continue with normal development, and the space control is in White's possession. 12.Bxa7 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Rxa7 14.0-0 After all the exchanges, White concludes the development, whilst Black's King is still in the center. Of course, one should not forget that the Rook on a7 needs time to get back into the

game, and that White is ready for reaction in the center! 14...Nf4 This is Black's only chance to gets activated. He aims to remove the light-squared Bishop and to simplify the position. Of course, White does not want to allow that and intends to keep the tension in the center. 15.Bb3 h5 Black searches for activity on the Kingside, but White's King is safe with many pieces surrounding it. As it is known, that sometimes the best defense is to counter-attack your opponent forcing him to react, so White strikes back with the center reaction! 16.d4 White maintains the space control and puts pressure on e5 square with a simple idea of 16...-- 17. dxe5 dxe5 18.Qxd8 Kxd8 19. Nxe5 which would lead to a position with a clear pawn up and d7 weakness will be undefended. 16...Qe7 17.Qd2 White includes the last piece into the game and on the next move will have all of the pieces activated after 18.Rae1. It is clear that Black can not castle safely anymore, and that Black's King is convicted to stay in the center. 17...h4 18.Rae1 White simply ignores Black's actions on the Kingside, since White's King is pretty safe there. There is no fear from 18... h3 which will be easily blocked after 19.g3 Ng2 and White is better after 20.Rd1 since Black can not use the Knight anymore. 18...Bxf3 19.Rxf3 Qg5 20.Rd1 As I stated in the trainable Course part, in this position, White was clearly better mainly thanks to the active pieces, full space control, and the threat of opening the d-file after dxe5, while Black still needs to resolve developing problems mainly due to the inactive Rook on a7, the King being exposed in the center, as well as the inability to push h3 due to g3 where Knight on f4 or Queen on g5 would be seriously weakened. And as it could be seen in the game between Fedorov, A CC StartBracket CC 2659 CC EndB racket CC -Fyllingen, R CC StartBracket CC 2410 CC EndB racket CC Aars 1999 White is clearly better with active pieces, full space control, and the threat of opening d-file after de5, while Black still needs to resolve development problems mainly due to inactive Ra7 and the King being exposed in the center. 20...f6 Black takes prophylactic measures against having the Queen on g5 under attack, although, if one is forced to make such a move at the cost of opening a monster Bishop on b3, I believe things are pretty clear. 21.Kh1 White also takes prophylaxis in order to keep his position untouchable and avoid all kinds of tricks by Black including Nh3 discovered check, a possible weak g2 square, or some other similar tactical trick. 21...Rh6 22.Rdf1 Looks like White forgot about the ideal placement of his pieces and that he could have gone with simple a 22.c4! followed by c5 with a dominating position along d-file and lots of mating threats afterward. 22...g6 Black puts the ball back in our half and again gives White a chance to take the initiative. It was

better to go with 22...Nh5! and a slightly better game for White. 23.dxe5 This time GM Fedorov plays the most accurate move and takes advantage of Black's inactive pieces. With the last move, he tries to open the d-file, points out how weak is the Rook on a7 and that he will not hesitate anymore and will take action finally. 23...fxe5 24.Rxf4 White is winning! Even though it does not seem that forced, this move shows how badly the Black pieces were placed and that with the exposed King on e8, the Rooks stuck in the middle of nowhere CC StartBracket CC on a7 and h6 CC EndBracket CC , Black can not hope for anything but a few more additional moves on the scoresheet! 24...exf4 25.Rxf4 Threatens three lethal moves: fxg6, e5 or Qf2. 25...gxf5 26.exf5 A position has arisen where our Bishop became more active, e-file open for the Rook or Queen and this certainly can not be any good for Black. Re4 is a threat as well with a simple follow-up of h3 followed by other active mating moves. 26...Kf8 Black removes his King and hopes for salvation, although, White has all the time in the world... 27.h3 Usually, similar moves bring White a decisive advantage and definitely cuts Black's counter chances off! 27...c6 28.Be6 Nice move which blocks the activity of the Rook on h6 and threatens Qxd6. 28...d5 29.Qd4 Threatens the Rook on a7 and improves Queen's positioning to the maximum. Now even Rg4 becomes a threat! 29...Ra8 30.Rg4 Qf6 31.Rg8+ Reference Games-Fedorov,A I had to include this game for a couple of reasons: first of all, it was a really well-conducted initiative by White in the middlegame, while at the same time, it shows how we should fight in a very common situation where Black goes for Bc5 idea and even tries to keep the strength of the dark-squared Bishop with a6, creating a shelter for its further action along that diagonal.

7...exf4 Black simply wants to get rid of the pressure in the center and not to think about the e5 pawn anymore. However, this allows White to overtake full center control and to block Black's dark-squared Bishop! 8.d4 As it was previously mentioned, White uses the opportunity to gain full central control and forces Black to react with the dark squared Bishop. 8...Ba7 This is the most common move by Black who escapes into safety. Of course, it should be noticed that White's central e4 pawn hangs now, but as we could see in this course, White prefers to take care of development than to care about the material! 9.c3 With this move, White not only improves the center control, but kills Black's dark-squared Bishop which does not have any space to play on. We do not care now about the e4 pawn, but we aim to castle as soon as possible, and material can be easily retreated due to hanging f4 pawn. 9...Nxe4 10.0-0 White follows up with fast development and threatens to

continue with a hunt on the exposed Black's Knight on e4. A direct threat would be Re1, but also Qc2 and of course, White will get the pawn back after Bf4 very soon. 10...0-0 11.Qc2 Not only that White simply attacks the Knight, but has an idea to toggle the Bishop on dangerous b1-h7 diagonal after Bd3. Hanging f4 pawn can not escape from the attack, so white does not need to hurry to take it. However, Bf4, followed by Rae1 will come soon and gives to White a nice play. 11...Bf5 12.Bd3 White conquers the b1-h7 diagonal and pins Black's Knight and Bishop. Black needs to be dedicated to defense for a moment. 12...Re8 13.Bxf4 Whilst White is ready to get the last piece into the game with 14. Rae1 Black still needs to think about the pin and exposed Knight on e4. 13...Bg6 14.Rae1 White is at least slightly better in this position, despite the pawn down, due to all pieces completely activated and positioned on the most active squares. One should not forget that Black's dark-squared Bishop is blocked for any action and does not have a spot to move on. Additionally Black has issues with the further development of Queen and another Rook. The only move which could save Black here would be 14...Ne7 but White has a nice strike with 15.Nxc7! Qxc7 16.Bxe4 Nd5 17.Bxg6 hxg6 18.Bg5 and Black has two serious pawn weaknesses: d6 isolated pawn and doubled pawns on g-file. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc **7...Be6** Although this looks like a natural solid developing move, it allows White to gain a very attractive position to play with great initiative and attack on Black's undeveloped King. 8.Nxf6+ White accepts to exchange pieces and forces Black to open space around the King. Black is forced to recapture with 8...gxf6, since 8...Qxf6? leads to a losing position after 9.f5! Bxc4 10.Bg5! and Black's Queen is trapped in the middle of the board! 8...gxf6 9.Bxe6 White continues with exchanges and forces Black to weaken the light squares around the King. Black is late with development, and White aims to open position as much as possible to be able to create proper actions punishing Black's King. 9...fxe6 10.fxe5 This is just a natural follow-up that opens up the longest diagonal for White's dark-squared Bishop, whilst White will control the light squares with the Queen. Not only that White plays here against Black's badly positioned King, but one should not forget that White has a long-term advantage due to Black's bad pawn structure! 10...fxe5 Of course, Black could also recapture with 10...dxe5 , but as it was previously mentioned, White's play will now switch and focus on Black's bad pawn structure due to the doubled pawns and three pawn islands, whilst White keeps the pawns healthy. In such a position, White should go for exchanges which would make Black's pawns even

weaker and more exposed to attacks! 11.Bg5 White develops with tempo and starts to seize the space around Black's King. Black will not be able to go for long castling and it is doubtful if Black can search for the King's safety on the Queenside! With ideas like Nh4, followed by Rf1 and Qh5, White will prevail on both light and dark squares on the Kingside. 11...Qd7 12.Nh4 Finally, White has a very nice initiative and wants to continue with the previously mentioned idea of Rf1, Qh5, and possible c3 which would stop Black to gain any activity in the center. Although engines do not admire this position and evaluate it as equal, I would say that White has good chances for a win in a real human game. Me and a good friend of mine, who is an International Master, played a 5 games match going on from this position. The final score was 4.5-0. 5 in favor of White, so it is rational to infer that Black has issues finding a proper plan here. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

7 **8...Qe7** This is a very interesting move by Black who keeps the same threat of Bg4 and Nd4, but also prepares for possible Bd7 and O-O-O. Mainly, with 8...Qe7 Black tries to escape from the pressure on the Kingside, and aims to put the King in a safe zone on the Queenside. 9.c3 Once again White closes the path for counterattack by Black and prepares to seize up light squares control with f5. At the same time, after f5, the dark-squared Bishop will get an open diagonal to pounce on! 9...Bd7 This is the most resilient move by Black who just wants to castle on the Queenside. . Instead, 9...Bg4?! would be considered as a suspicious move, due to 10.f5! and Black's light-squared Bishop would be problematic. After 10...f6 11.Qa4! White is clearly better with undefendable pressure on Nc6 and indirectly attacked pawn on e5. 10.f5 Not only that White improves the position of the light-squared Bishop on d5, but also makes Black's Bishop on d7 look miserable. White has new opportunities to weaken the f7 square after a possible Ng5, so Black needs to be careful here. 10...0-0-0 Black follows up with the idea to put the King in safety on the Queenside. However, Black could also choose to play 10...g6?! 11. Ng5! White is clearly better here due to the huge burden on the f7 square. White gains a clearly better position also after 10...f6?! 11.b4 Ba7 12.a4 with full space control and a plan of Qe2, followed by Be3 and castle. 11.b4 It is clear that White does not search for action on the Kingside anymore, but aims to threaten Black's King on the Queenside. 11. b4 comes with a tempo and will be followed by a4 and the idea of b5 which would put Black into an uncomfortable position to search for good squares to move his pieces away. On the other hand, you should not have fears about the King in the center, because White's

King is safe there, and White does not need to hurry with castling. 11...Bb6 12.a4 White keeps pressuring the Queenside and Black needs to figure out whether the threat is a5 or b5. I would always recommend keeping the plan of the very dangerous 13.b5! in mind here which would open the light square Bishop to attack b7 square. 12...Nb8 Black prevents b5 which would come with a tempo and aims to exchange the light squares Bishops after Bc6. That would reveal Black from the pressure, but White has time to answer on this one! 13.b5 We do not care about the pawn, but only how to open the Queenside! White has a deadly threat of a5, followed by bxa6 and Qb3 so Black needs to react here! 13...axb5 This is practically the only move for Black because after 13...a5 14. Nd2 White is clearly better with the idea of Nc4 and Black will not be able to defend dark squares. 14.axb5 White reached a goal to open Black's King and has full control of a-file. One should not forget that Bishop on d5 dominates the position and that f7 square is still exposed to attack after possible Ng5. Black would be crisscrossed between defending the Queenside and the Kingside! 14...Bxb5 15.Ng5 White uses the opportunity to gain activity while Black is crowded on the back rank. The f7 pawn will be undefendable after the forthcoming Qb3 with a double attack on the Bishop on b5 and f7! 15...Rhf8 16.Qb3 White does not care about the d3 pawn but searches for a path to conquer the Black's side after Ra8 and Nf7! Black can not do a lot to take the counter-play and practically waits for White's actions! 16...Bxd3 17.Ra8 As it could be seen in the game Palmiero, O-Fragola, H ICCF email 2018 White is clearly better with a simple plan of Nf7, followed by Bg5! Black is locked down on the back rank and has no possibility to unchain from pins! 17...h6 18.Nxf7 Rd7 19.Ng5 hxg5 20.c4 Rxf5 21.exf5 Bxf5 22.Be3 Bc2 23.Qa3 Bxe3 24.Qxe3 c5 25.Qa3

Reference Games-Palmiero,O

8...Bg4 Black keeps active play with a direct threat of Nd4. Anyway, that does not stop White to continue with the previously mentioned idea of c3 and possible d4 afterward. 9.c3 White prevents the threat of Nd4 and continues with the same follow-up. It must be noted that White does not want to rush with the d4 move, but now has another idea to proceed with f5 to weaken Black's light-squared Bishop and to force a trade. 9...Bxf3 Black is familiar with the f5 move in such a position and prevents any possible problems with the light-squared Bishop with this immediate trade. In the case of natural 9...O-O both moves 10. h3 and even 10.f5!? gives White better chances mainly due to a powerful Bishop on d5 in the center! 10.Qxf3 It is obvious that White is not interested in the d4 approach, but switches the action on the Kingside aiming to create a pawn storm with f5, followed by h4 and g4. Of course, White has an easy solution for the King which

could be brought to safety after Bd2 and O-O-O. 10...0-0 11.Qg3 As it was mentioned a few times throughout the course, sometimes the threat is better than the execution. White exposes Black's King to a pin and still has the same idea of f5, followed by a possible uncomfortable pin of Bh6. 11...Ne7 12.Bb3 With a simple step back White keeps the Bishop pair as the main asset in the position. Threatening to open things up, with Black's exposed e5 pawn, White is ready to create action on the Kingside. 12...exf4 13.Bxf4 With the Bishop pair eyeing Black's Queen and activated Queen on g3, Black can not be comfortable playing such a position. Nevertheless, White has easy play after O-O-O and possible d4, which would lead to full center control and total domination. 13...a5 Black keeps searching for a way to get activated and aims to move the light-squared Bishop away from the dangerous a2-g8 diagonal. 14.d4 White is ready to swing the Bishop on the other active diagonal b1-h7, still eyeing the Kingside, and one should not forget White's dominance in the center. 14...a4 15.Bc2 Bb6 16.0-0 After Black's action on the Queenside with a4 which could be possibly followed with a3, White does not take any risk to compromise the long-term advantage of the Bishop pair and keeps the King safe on the Kingside. With 16.O-O, White also activates the Rook and aims to bring another one in the game soon. 16...Ng6 17.Be3 And once again with a simple step back, White keeps the Bishop pair on the board, with the idea to double the Rooks on the f-file with pressure on the f7 weakened square. With full central control, active pieces, and a Bishop pair, White is clearly better. The forthcoming plan of White was shown in a game between Alagna, L-Epiney, F IECG email 2004. 17...Qd7 18.Rf3 Qe6 19.a3 c6 20.Raf1 Bd8 21.Rf5 Be7 22.Bg5 Bxg5 23.Qxg5 Rae8 24.h4 f6 25.Qg3 Ne7 26.Rh5 g6 27.Ra5 b5 28.Ra7 Rf7 29.Bd3 d5 30.Rf4 Qd6 31.Qf3 Ref8 32.h5 g5 33.e5 Qb8 34.Rxe7 Rxe7 35.Rxf6 Qd8 36.Qf5 Rxf6 37.Qxf6 Qe8 38.Bf5 Qf7 39.Qd6 h6 40.g4

Reference Games-Alagna,L

8...exf4 9.d4 White keeps the full central control and seizes space for Black's dark-squared Bishop. White is ready to continue with development, and one should not forget that the f4 pawn is hanging, so White will get the material back very soon. 9...Bb6

[9...Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Qh4+ White is forced to play with a King and it is clear that there is no castling anymore. However, White has the material advantage, and Black needs to fight harshly to find compensation. I would mention that the same position which we will consider along this line can be reached after 10...c6 11.Bb3 Qh4 12.Kf1 d5 . 11.Kf1 White has a piece up and simple idea to support an exposed Knight on d4 with c3, followed by Qe1, and the trade offer. Certainly, if White reaches an endgame without Queens on the board, the position would be easy to

win. c6 Due to a previously mentioned idea of c3, followed by Qe1, Black needs to react in the center and to try to exploit the White's King as soon as possible. 12.Bb3 White has nice activity and promising initiative in the game So, W - Sales, J PHI-ch 2004, I decided to analyze it a bit more and improve on Black's play but looks like after all, White has better chances! Bg4 *(12...d5* Although a move such as 12...Bg4 looks logical and uncomfortable, White would have a much better position after 13.Qd2 with the same idea of c3 and Qf2-Queen trade! *13.c3* It is a fact that White has no time to have fun with pawns, but needs to support the King very soon. For that reason, the idea of c3-Qe1 is followed straightly! We need to be satisfied with a piece for three pawns. *dxe4 14.Qe1 Qxe1+ 15.Kxe1* White's King in the center becomes an asset in the endgame and White has a direct threat to overtake the pawn on f4. The attack on this pawn will be improved after Ne2, and it is questionable if Black can defend it. Although three pawns for a piece are considered to be good compensation, Black faces problems to defend one of the pawns, and in practice, such endgames with a slight advantage of White are incredibly hard to hold. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc*)* 13.Qd2 0-0-0 14.c3 g5 15.Qf2 Qh5 16.Bd2 Rhe8 17.Re1 f5 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Bd1 Qg6 20.Qf3 Bd3+ 21.Kf2 Rf8 22.h4 h6 23.h5 Qh7 24.Kg1 Kb8 25.Kh2 g4 26.Qxg4 Rg8 27.Qh4 Bc4 28.Bf3 Bxa2 29.Bxf4 Bd5 30.Bxd5 cxd5 31.Ne6 Qc2 32.Qh3 Bf2 33.Nxd8 Bxe1 34.Bxd6+ Ka7 35.Bc5+ Kb8 36.Rxe1 Rxd8 37.Bb6 Rg8 38.Qg3+ Reference Games-So,W]

10.Bxf4 With centralized pieces and a complete center, White is ready to complete development with O-O, Qd2, Rae1. It is clear that Black has no concrete actions here and that White will have at least a slight advantage thanks to better space control. 10...Be6 Black intends to exchange light-squared Bishops and to open f-file which would make the Bishop on f4 exposed to attacks. For that reason, White does not force the exchange and waits for Black to take the first step. 11.0-0 0-0 12.Kh1 White plays a clever prophylactic move and escapes from the pin from the dark-squared Bishop. Of course, White did not change from the original plan of Qd2, followed by Rae1. 12...h6 13.Qd2 With a nice idea of the familiar Bh6 sacrifice and normal development continuation of Rae1, White is at least slightly better. One should not forget the importance of a good center, and that Black's dark-squared Bishop is marginalized with no actions on the Queenside as it could be seen in the game Wei, Y-Vallejo Pons, F, Leon 2014. 13...Bxd5 14.exd5 Ne7 15.Bxh6 Nxd5 16.c4 Ne7 17.Bg5 f6 18.Bf4 Qd7 19.Rae1 Rae8 20.Qc3 Ba7 21.b3 Qg4 22.Qd2 Qd7 23.Qc3 Qg4 24.Qd2 Qd7 25.Qc3 Reference Games-Wei,Y

8...Be6 If Black tries to exchange the light-squared Bishop, White reaches a nice position with a

slight positional advantage after this exchange. 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.fxe5 Black is forced to take the pawn and to double the pawns on the e-file. 10...dxe5 11.c3 With a slight advantage, White stops further trades with Nd4 and prepares for development after Qe2. Doubled pawns on the e-file are targets now, and White can attack them easily with Ng5. With a long-term advantage and a better pawn structure, White has a nice and easy position to play. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

[8] **9...Nd4** 10.Nxd4 Bxd4 11.Qh5 c6 12.Bb3 d5 13.c3 Ba7 14.Qf3 dxe4 15.dxe4 Qb6 16.Bd2 c5 17.0-0-0 Kh8 18.Be3 Qc7 19.Bd5 Bd7 20.f6 g6 21.Bh6 Reference Games-Hresc,V

10.Bg5 Not only that White puts a pin on the Knight on e7, but also clears a space for development on the Queenside. White is ready to continue with Qd2 and O-O-O, and well-known pawn storm on the Kingside with g4, he, and g5! 10...h6 11.Bxe7 This is one of the crucial moves in this constellation of pieces. Although, it makes full sense to use this tempo to remove the best defender in chess around the King - the Knight! 11...Qxe7 12.a3 White concentrates all of the efforts to keep the light-squared killer which pressures Black's King. With a clever prophylactic move, White creates a shelter for the Bishop! 12...c6 13.Ba2 The light-squared Bishop is now untouchable and White is ready to go on with Qd2 and O-O-O! 13...Re8 14.Qd2 13...Re8 might look illogical, but in fact, Black Doesn't have many options to continue development and just waits for White to play. As it was previously mentioned, White has easy play after O-O-O, g4, followed by g5! 14...b5 15.0-0-0 Rb8 16.g4 As it could be seen in a game Urban, M -Narciso, M ICCF email 2017 White has, by now, a pretty traditional attack on the Kingside after g5 and h4, aiming to open space around Black's King. Meanwhile, Black searches for a way to create a counterattack on the Queenside, but White's King is safe and Black simply does not have active pieces to join the attack. 16...d5 17.Rhe1 b4 18.d4 bxa3 19.dxc5 Rxb2 20.Bb3 Qxc5 21.Re3 d4 22.Nxd4 exd4 23.Qxd4 Qe7 24.Rdd3 c5 25.Qa4 c4 26.Qxc4 Bb7 27.e5 Rc8 28.Qa4 Kh7 29.f6 Qc5 30.Rc3 Qf8 31.e6 fxe6 32.Bxe6 Rxc3 33.Bf5+ Reference Games-Urban, M

[9] **7...exf4** Black aims to break the connection of the dark squared Bishop and the Knight on g5. Even though this is a suspicious move, White needs to know the best answer to benefit from it! 8.Bxf7+ With a check, White prepares for the forthcoming Bf4! - a simple development move that defends the Knight on g5! 8...Kf8 9.Bxf4 White is ready to exploit Black's terribly positioned King with Rf1 and Nd5! Black is forced to react, but it is questionable if Black can escape from the losing position. 9...Nf2

10.Qf3 And after only 10 moves White reached a winning position with a devastating threat of Be6, followed by Nd5. Black can not escape with the King and does not have time to gain activity. The game between Braun, I -Henris, L IECG email 2003 continued with 10...Nxh1 11. Bb3 Qf6 12.Nd5 Ne5 13.Qf1 Bf2 14.Kd2 Qd8 15.Qe2 and Black could not defend both Knight on h1 and Bishop on f2. After taking a piece, White will conquer the f-file and Black will have issues to defend exposed King. 10...Nxh1 11.Bb3 Qf6 12.Nd5 Ne5 13.Qf1 Bf2+ 14.Kd2 Qd8 15.Qe2 h5 16.Rxh1 Bh4 17.Nf3 Nxf3+ 18.Qxf3 Ke8 19.g3 Bg4 20.Qe3 Be7 21.e5 Kd7 22.h3 Bf5 23.Qd4 c6 24.exd6 Reference Games-Braun,I

7...h6 Black just wants to clear the path for the Queen which could possibly be uncomfortable after Qh4. 8.f5 You should not fall for the trick of playing 8.Nxf7? instead, which would directly lead to a losing position after 8...Qh4 9.g3 Qh3! and White can not defend due to a threat of Qg2! With 8.f5! instead, White keeps the pressure on the f7 spot, and the Knight on g4 is now no longer protected! You should not fall for the trick of playing 8.Nxf7? instead, which would directly lead to a losing position after 8...Qh4 9.g3 Qh3! and White can not defend due to a threat of Qg2! With 8.f5! instead, White keeps the pressure on the f7 spot, and the Knight on g4 is now no longer protected! 8...hxg5 This is practically the only move which gives hope to Black, although the position can hardly be saved due to the dominant White pieces and the many weaknesses on the Black side, such as g5 pawn, and weakened light squares around the King which does not have a safe spot anymore.

[8...Nf2 Even though this looks like a natural follow-up, this is a huge mistake that gives a winning position to White! 9.Qh5 It is clear that Black is lost due to undefendable weakness on f7! 0-0 Black needs to castle, but that does not save him from the issues they have with the f7-square. 10.Nxf7 With an undefendable Nxh6 threat, Black either gets mated or loses material! White is easily winning as it could be seen in the game Henkes, H-Cook, A IECC email 1998, where Black could resign after 10... Qf6 11.Nxh6+ due to a forthcoming check of Ng4! Qf6 11.Nxh6+ Reference Games-Henkes,H]

[8...Ne3 This is a very interesting move by Black, although it is still considered to be suspicious. Black keeps the threat of Qh4 if White moves the Knight away and solves the problem of the hanging Knight! 9.Bxf7+ White goes for a clever intermediary move which comes with a check, and continues with actions against Black's Knight on e3 afterward! One should not forget that White will not have issues with two hanging pieces thanks to the escape with Ne6! Kf8 10.Bxe3 White resolves the problem of the Knight which was attacking the g2 pawn and will have the previously mentioned escape with the Knight!

Bxe3 11.Ne6+ Bxe6 12.fxe6 After all of the exchanges White managed to keep a material advantage of a pawn up and aims to continue with g3, which would prevent all of the possible activity of Black with Qh4, followed by further development, Qf3, Rf1, and Nd5. One should not forget that Black's King is locked, and they can not develop properly. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

9.Qxg4 White immediately threatens to take the long-term advantage with a pawn up after Bg5. Black is forced to defend the pawn, and that would lead him into trouble as it will be shown! 9...f6 Of course, if Black does not defend the pawn and plays for example 9...Rh4 White is clearly better after 10.Qxg5 , entering an endgame with better pieces and a clear pawn up. 10.h4 White simply keeps the pressure on the newest g5 weakness and threatens to continue with Rh3! Black will not be able to keep the pawn anymore so they need to search for a counter-attack on the Queenside. 10...Nd4 11.Bb3

[11.Rh3 We simply do not care about the Queenside! Black's King is undefendable in the center due to the light-squared killer which controls the a2-g8 diagonal. With ideas to open h-file and swing the Queen over there, White is clearly better even with a Rook down! Of course, White could play a safer move such as 11.Bb3 which was played in a game Gromov, S-Semenov, V ICCF email 2015, and a better position with a pawn up, but you can win the game a lot faster with 11.Rh3! Nxc2+ 12.Kd1 Nxa1 13.hxg5 And Black can not hold the pressure on the weakened light-squares. The h-file will be conquered by White, and Black will not be able to defend the checks leading to mate. Rxh3 Black is forced to pass the h-file to White, since after 13...Rf8 a bitter end awaits Black after 14.gxf6 Qxf6 15.Nd5! and a beautiful tactical blow after 15...Qf7 16.Nxc7! Qxc7 17. Qg6 followed by Bg5! 14.Qxh3 And White is winning with full control over the Kingside, threatening to continue with Qh8 or Qh7, followed by Nd5. Black can not defend the pawns and at the same time can not use the material advantage, since all of the pieces are locked to the back rank without any possibility to activate them. 3) Bishop's Opening 2... Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3. Nc]

11...Qe7 12.Be3 c6 13.Kd2 Bd7 14.hxg5 0-0-0 15.gxf6 gxf6 16.Rae1 Nxb3+ 17.axb3 Bxe3+ 18.Kxe3 d5 19.Kd2 d4 20.Nb1 Kc7 21.Rxh8 Rxh8 22.Kc1 Qh7 23.Rg1 Rg8 24.Qf3 Rg5 25.g4 Qg8 26.Nd2 Be8 27.Nf1 Bh5 28.Nh2 a5 29.Rg2 b5 30.Qh3 a4 31.bxa4 bxa4 32.Qh4 c5 33.Kb1 Kb7 34.Rg3 Qg7 35.Rg1 Kc7 36.Qg3 Kc6 37.Ka1 Qg8 38.Qh4 Qg7 39.Qe1 Kb6 40.Qd1 Be8 41.c3 Qg8 42.c4 Ka6 43.Ka2 Kb6 44.Qd2 Bc6 45.Qg2 Rg7 46.Nf3 Bxe4 47.dxe4 Qxc4+ 48.Ka1 Qd3 49.Nd2 a3 50.Nb1 c4 51.Nxa3 c3 52.bxc3 Reference Games-Gromov, S

7...Bf2+ Black goes for the idea to ruin White's castling, but as I previously mentioned, White should not have any fears after this move!

8.Kf1 In fact, Black needs to think about how to protect both Knight on g4 and Bishop on f2 due to a threat of 9.h3! At the same time, the pawn on f7 still hangs! 8...exf4 Black temporarily defends against h3, with a threat to proceed with Ne3. Of course, one should not forget that White's Knight on g5 is hanging now, so White needs to take quick action! 9.Bxf7+ White has the same motives as Ne6 which would leave Black's Knight on g4 undefended! 9...Kf8 10.Ne6+ Bxe6 11.Bxe6 White dominates the light squares after these exchanges and has a very important tempo that allows us to gain control over the play! 11...Ne3+ 12.Bxe3 Bxe3 13.Qh5 The position looks symmetrical since both sides have Kings in the center and active Bishops. However, as it was mentioned, White has an important tempo and dictates the game. With the direct threats of Qf7# and Nd5, Black needs to defend and does not have time to be operative. The position looks symmetrical since both sides have Kings in the center and active Bishops. However, as it was mentioned, White has an important tempo and dictates the game. With the direct threats of Qf7# and Nd5, Black needs to defend and does not have time to be operative. Full line 13...Ne5 Black keeps the Queen undeveloped aiming to continue with c6 which would stop possible Nd5 and would allow Black to develop and support the King with Qf6. Instead, Black could go for 13...Qf6 14.Bb3 Ne7 15.Ke2 and White is clearly better with a plan to open f-file with g3 and Raf1! 14.Nd5 White finally puts pressure on the dark-squared Bishop and Black cannot defend both e3 and f5 squares. The idea is to open f-file and conquer it after Ke2 and Rae1! 14...c6 15.Nxe3 Qf6 Black hangs on the last straw of salvation and threatens to create a discovered check with fxe3, at the same time attacking the light-squared Bishop. Having this in mind, White moves the King to safety and proceeds with the previously mentioned idea of Ke2 and Raf1! Of course, if 15...fxe3 was played instead, White would just continue with 16.Ke2 with a clear advantage and the threat of Raf1! 16.Ke2 White's King is safe since White controls all of the light squares, and Rf1 is coming! 16...Qxe6 17.Rhf1 In the game between Nepomniachtchi, I-Anand, V chess24.com INT 2020 White did not give any chance to Black after 17. Rhf1, keeping the a2 pawn safe. White is winning since Black can not defend the f4 pawn anymore and after the forthcoming Rf4, White will double the Rooks on the f-file, with total domination. 17...Qf6 18.Rxf4 Qxf4 19.Rf1 Qxf1+ 20.Kxf1 Re8 21.Kg1 Nf7 22.Qg4 g6 23.Nc4 Re7 24.Qf4 Re6 25.Na5 Kg7 26.Nxb7 Rb8 27.Nc5 Re7 28.Nb3 Ne5 29.h3 c5 30.Qd2 Rf8 31.d4 cxd4 32.Qxd4 Rf6 33.Nd2 g5 34.Nf1 Reference Games-Nepomniachtchi,I

7...Nf2 Although this is a mistake by Black, this is a very common move

that you will face a lot, especially in Blitz games. With only one move, White gains all the activity and a winning position. 8.Qh5 With a simple activation move, Black suddenly faces trouble to defend f7 pawn! As it will be shown soon, White is winning! 8...g6 With this move as the only one, Black only delays the loss! 9.Bxf7+ Kd7 10.Be6+ After a few checks, Black will not be able to defend mate threats! 10...Ke8 11.Qh6 And Black cannot defend anymore! Faced with two cruel threats of Qg7 and Nd5, Black can resign. One should not forget that after 11... Bxe6 White has a beautiful motive of 12.Nxe6 Qe7 13.Nd5 followed by Nxc7! 3) Bishop's Opening 2... Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3. Nc

10 **10.a3** White certainly needs to save the most important piece for the attack here and creates a shelter for the Bishop! 10...a5 Since Black aims to search for counter-play on the Queenside, they create the space for their pieces with this move. Of course, White continues with action on the Kingside! 11.h4 Nb6 12.Ba2 With the light-squared Bishop in a safe zone, White is ready for an attack on the Kingside! 12...Nd4 13.h5 Despite the lag in development, White is clearly better here with the idea of opening up the h-file after h6! Black can not escape from the pin of the light-squared Bishop, and after the h-file gets opened, White is able to proceed with tactical engagement through the f7 square, as it could be seen in the game Probola, R-Turczynski, M ICCF email 2015. 13...Qe7 14.h6 g6 15.Ne2 d5 16.c3 Nxe2 17.Qxe2 c6 18.Be3 f6 19.Nf3 Kh8 20.0-0-0 Bd7 21.g5 Na4 22.Nh4 Bxe3+ 23.Qxe3 fxg5 24.fxg6 gxh4 25.g7+ Kg8 26.gxf8R+ Rxf8 27.Rdf1 Rxf1+ 28.Rxf1 Nc5 29.exd5 cxd5 30.Rg1+ Kh8 31.Bxd5 Qd6 32.Rg8# Reference Games-Probola,R

11 **7...h6** This is quite an automatic move and lately Black goes for it very often. Black prevents the threat of Bg5 and aims to play Nd4 to create additional space for further development. 8.a3 White create the space for the light-squared Bishop which is the most important piece for the forthcoming action on the Kingside! 8...Nd4 This is just one of many possibilities. Black seeks an active play in the center and goes for it. Another common possibility in practice is 8... a6 which gives shelter for the Bishop on c5 CC StartBracket CC Bc5-Ba7 CC EndBracket CC but it looks like that after 9.Nd5! White still has a nice initiative and very promising chances with an attack on the Kingside afterward! 9.Nxd4 This is quite a logical move since it opens up Queen on d1 and its further activity! 9...Bxd4 10.Qf3 It is clear that White is ready for the pawn storm on the Kingside with g4, h4, and g5! Of course, the development can be concluded easily after Bd2 and O-O-O and Black still has issues with blocked

light-squared Bishop. 10...c6 Black has no other option but to look for either central activity with d5 central break or with b5 and possible Queenside action. However, that does not stop White from proceeding with the previously mentioned plan. 11.g4 d5 12.Bb3 As it was shown in a game between Godart, F-Vorontsov, G ICCF email 2015 White is clearly better despite the center control of Black. Black has no direct actions and it is easy to make any crucial central breaks, whilst White prepares for an attack after h4 and g5, followed by Bd2 and O-O-O. 12...Nd7 13.h4 Nc5 14.Bd2 Nxb3 15.cxb3 Kh7 16.0-0-0 g6 17.Ne2 dxe4 18.dxe4 c5 19.Ng3 Qb6 20.g5 Bd7 21.h5 gxf5 22.g6+ Kg7 23.Nxf5+ Bxf5 24.exf5 f6 25.Kb1 Rfc8 26.Rh3 c4 27.Be3 c3 28.Rxd4 c2+ 29.Kc1 exd4 30.Bxh6+ Kxh6 31.Qf4+ Kg7 32.h6+ Kf8 33.h7 Ke7 34.g7

Reference Games-Godart,F

7...Nd4 Black activates the Knight and aims to stop White's Kingside attack by controlling the c2 square. 8.Nxd4 I have found this move as an improvement to the most commonly played 8.Bg5?! which gives good results in practice, but engines do not like it and say that Black is better! With 8.Nxd4! White aims to resolve the problem of the active Black's Knight in the center which pressures c2 square, and continues with activity on the Kingside! 8...exd4 Black puts all of the efforts to stop the attack on the Kingside. If 8...Bxd4?! was played instead, White would simply launch an attack after 9.Qf3! with the idea of g4, h4, and g5 which is typical for the Bishops opening. 9.Nd5 Of course, White takes the most active square and threatens Bg5, which is going to force Black to take in which case Qd1 becomes open for its further actions on the Kingside! 9...Nxd5 Black tends to exchange as many pieces as possible, getting closer to an endgame where Black could have good chances for a nice play and will not have issues with activation. 10.Bxd5 Qh4+ Practically this is the only move to prevent Qh5 followed by Bg5. 11.g3 Qh3 Prevents short castle and sneaks around for a potential Qg2 idea. 12.Qf3 And White has a slightly better position with the idea to continue with Bd2, Bb3 tucking the light-squared Bishop into safety and a possible O-O-O. It is a fact that Black's Queen is clumsily positioned on the edge of the board without good space to move away, and White aims to use that as an advantage. Despite that, White has a long-term advantage of the healthy pawn structure against Black's bad pawns. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

7...Ng4 Although this looks uncomfortable to White, due to a threat of Bf2 or Nf2, this is actually a bad move that can be punished promptly! 8.Bg5 White keeps developing with a tempo and Black has issues finding a good spot for the Queen. Meanwhile, White is ready for Qd2 and h3 which would put Black's Knight into problems to

escape from the attack. 8...Qd7 If Black decided to move the Queen on e8, that would not change or stop White's plan of Qd2 followed by h3! 9.Qd2 And White is easily winning after h3. Black would be forced to move the Knight away, but there is no good square for it. If they go with Nf2, there is no salvation after Rf1. Of course 9... h6?! is met with 10.h3! and White will open h-file with an attack on the Black's King! 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

12 **8...Nxc4** 9.dxc4 Although it looks that White has pawn structure weakness, the fact is that Black can not use it. All pawns are placed on the light squares and Black's Bishop on c8 has no good spot to go to attack them. Meanwhile, White got space for the pieces and aims to continue with an attack on the Kingside and pinned Knight on f6. 9...c6 The main idea of this move is to prevent the Nd5 threat, but one should not forget that Black at the same time blocks his own Bishop on c8.

[9...Bb4 This is practically the only move that gives some kind of play for Black. Black has a direct threat of Bc3 and aims to create tripled pawns on the c-file to White. Anyway, White can choose to ignore that threat, and can continue with an attack on the Kingside! 10.Nd2 White supports the e4 pawn and threatens to go for Nd5! At the same time, Queen is ready to be developed with Qf3 and White will be able to continue with the attack! Bxc3 Black has to create some counterpart and at least create a possibly weak tripled pawns and weakness on e4. Although, it will not release him from the extremely annoying pin on f6! 11.bxc3 It is a fact that White has weaknesses on the c-file, but it is also a fact that Black can not reach them easily. For that reason, White needs to hurry to create an attack on the Kingside, not letting Black take control over the board. h6 Black aims to move the Bishop which uncomfortably pins Black, but the point is that White does not need to move it away! If Black decided to play 11...b6 instead, White would go for 12.h4! Which reaches a similar position as the one which appears in this line afterward. 12.h4! is aimed against any possible h6, and White will continue with Qf3 and g4 and a great attack on the Kingside! 12.h4 As it was mentioned, White does not need to move the Bishop away! With this clever 12.h4! White defends the Bishop, because every opening of the h-file would be fatal for Black! Whilst White has a simple plan of Qf3, g4, O-O-O, Rdg1 with a threat of Bf6 followed by g5, Black has no quick action on the Queenside, and White's King is safe after Kb1 with a Knight on d2 which could be a good defender with a possible Nb3! 3) Bishop's Opening 2... Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3. Nc]

10.Qd3 Not only that White concludes development quickly after the upcoming O-O-O, but also puts pressure on the d6 pawn which becomes a target now after Na4 for

example. 10...Qe7 11.0-0-0 White puts the last piece into a game and solves a problem with a King putting it into safety. Black is faced with a serious threat of Na4, which could remove the defender of the d6 spot. 11...Rd8 12.h3 Since Black defended the pawn on d6, White starts to pressure the Queenside aiming to play Nh2 followed by Ng5, and Black's Knight on f6 would face trouble. I believe that two equally interesting moves that could be quite typical in this type of position are 12.g4!? or 12. h4!? 12...a6 Black has no other choice but to search for the initiative on the Queenside. However, that does not stop White to continue with the same idea! 13.Nh2 What a nice attacking and retreating move! All of a sudden, White has just opened up for Ng4 and Qg3 possibilities and Black will have to pay the price for having his Knight and Queen pinned and unable to defend Nf6 with Be7! 13...h6 Black puts all of the hopes that White will move the Bishop away from h4-d8 diagonal, but that ain't gonna happen! 14.Bh4 b5 Looks like that 14...g5 could be better defense, but I find Black's game very difficult in both cases. 15.Ng4 And White is much better since Black can not defend Knight on f6 anymore. Black will be forced to accept the doubled pawns around the King, which would create a new weakness on h6. After the forthcoming 15...-- 16.Bxf6 gxf6 White can continue with Qg3 followed by Qh4 and Black's position falls apart. The upcoming plan of White can be seen in a game De Toledo, C-Rihtaric, I ICCF email 2005. 15...Kh7 16.Qd2 Qf8 17.Nxf6+ gxf6 18.Bxf6 Re8 19.g4 d5 20.cxd5 Bb7 21.g5 Be7 22.d6 Bxf6 23.gxf6 Qh8 24.d7 Rg8 25.Qd6 Rad8 26.Qe7 Rgf8 27.Rhg1 h5 28.Rg7+ Kh6 29.Qxe5 Qxg7 30.fxg7 Rg8 31.Qf6+ Kh7 32.Rg1 Rxd7 33.Rg5 Rd1+ 34.Nxd1 Re8 35.Rxh5+ Reference Games-De Toledo,C

[13] **10.dxc4** As it was already mentioned, White should not be worried about double pawns on c-file because Black's Bishop from c8 has no square to move and compromise those pawns. White is ready to continue with Qd2, g4, h4, and O-O-O, with huge pressure on the Black's King. 10...h6 11.Bh4 [11.Bxf6 I find this move as an improvement over the 11.Bh4 gives a slightly better position for White and was seen in the game between Nun, J-Lehner, O Oberwart 1992. With 11. Bfx6! White forces Black to expose the Queen to attack after g4, h4, and g5! Qxf6 12.g4 And White continues with a great attack on Black's King after the forthcoming Qd2, h4, and g5! As it was mentioned, Black's Queen will be exposed to attack, and Black will not be able to stop the opening of g or h-file around the King. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc White is ready for a tremendous attack! Black's Bishop on c8 will be out of play for a long time and White will simply continue with development and opening the Kingside with Qd2, h4,

and g5. Of course, White's King will be safe after O-O-O, and the other Rook will be included in the game afterward!]

11...a5 12.Qd2 a4 13.g4 Qb6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Qxh6 Qxb2 16.Kd2 Bd4 17.Ne2 Reference Games-Nun,J

[14] **7.h3** This is a very interesting move for White and it was played by many chess legends, such as Kasparov, Fischer, Rubinstein... I would recommend this approach to all the players who enjoy creative positions with plenty of desirable attacking ideas, tricks, and tactical opportunities! Although the engines would give a small advantage in different variations for Black, in practice it was shown that 7.h3!? is very unpleasant for Black, especially during the short time control games CCStartBracket CCit is my favorite one in Blitz! CC EndBracket CC 7...Bxf3 This is the most logical follow-up by Black who removes the defender of the d4 spot and prepares for Nd4. 7...Bd7?! instead would be suspicious due to 8.Na4! which immediately provides a clear advantage for White who gains a Bishop pair. White can even proceed with Kasparov's idea of 8. f5!? followed by Bg5, Nd5, and a harsh attack on the Kingside after g4! 8.Qxf3 White is not worried about Nd4 possibility and swings all the activities on the weakened Kingside! 8...Nd4 9.Qg3 The whole idea of White's plan is to take advantage out of Black's late development and weakened Kingside. Possible Qg7 would come with a double attack on the Rook on h8 and f7 pawn, and with 9.Qg3! White ignores the Nc2 threat! 9...0-0 Black castles and tries to put the King into safety and threatens Nxc2.

[9...Nh5 With this intermediary move Black defends the g7 pawn with a tempo attack on White's Queen hoping to force a Queen exchange and at the same time, Black keeps a threat of Nc2. Of course, it is not White's interest to exchange Queens, but White turns to hunt of the Black's Knight on h5. 10.Qg4 Queen keeps eyeing the pawn on g7 and puts pressure on the Knight which defends that spot. g6 It would be illogical for Black to move the Knight back leaving the g7-pawn unprotected, and 10... Nxc2 instead would not be the happiest line for Black after 11.Kd1 Nxa1 12.Qxh5 with a double attack on f7 and e5 pawns. White would have full compensation for an exchange with a plan of fxe5 followed by Rf1! 11.fxe5 White forces the opening of the f-file eyeing the vulnerable f7 pawn. With the idea of Bb3 White aims to support the c2 pawn and after Rf1, Black will have issues with further development. Qd7 *(11...dxe5* Instead of resilient 11... dxe5 Black could also go for interesting 11...Qd7 which was played in a game Tomescu, V-Fuchs, G Wattens 1997, but after White's activation on the f-file 12.Rf1 O-O-O 13.Bg5! White is winning since 13... Nxc2?! does not work anymore due to 14.Kd2 Qxg4 15.hxg4 Nxa1 16. gxh5 and White overtakes material

advantage after Ra1 having two pieces for a Rook. *12.Bb3* With full control of dark squares and a target on the f7, White is at least slightly better without problems in development. The pawn on c2 is defended and White has the better piece activity, whilst Black needs to think about the King's safety and marginalized Knight on h5 which does not have lots of possibilities for activation. I had this position a few times in the practice and it is full of interesting possibilities but not easy at all for playing. White has better chances, but do not overestimate yours and underestimate their chances! 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc*; 11...Nxc2+* I believe that Nxc2 is the biggest concern for all the players in such a position, but as it was said before, White reaches a desirable position in every line where Black chases material advantage. In that manner, 11...Nxc2?! is a suspicious move and White takes full control over the game after the forthcoming Bg5 and Rf1! *12.Kd1 Nxa1 13.Bg5* Black has a Rook up but faces lots of issues with development thanks to White's active pieces. White is ready to place a Rook on the f-file and pawn on f7 will be undefendable. One should not forget that Black's Knight on a1 is trapped and White can take it anytime after Kc1-Kb1-Ka1. *Qc8 14.Rf1* Even though Black has a material advantage, White should not worry about the Queen exchange. First of all, Black's pawn on f7 hangs and can not be defended and White will have full compensation after Kc1-Kb1-Ka1. However, there is no need to hurry with a plan of overtaking the Knight on a1, because that Knight has no place to escape, so White can keep the activity with Nd5 and has an immediate threat of Qf3, or even Qh5 with full control of the game. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc*)* 12.Rf1 0-0-0 13.Bg5 dxe5 14.Bxd8 Nxc2+ 15.Kd2 f5 16.exf5 gxf5 17.Qxf5 Nxa1 18.Be6 Reference Games-Tomescu,V]

[9...Qe7 Black tries to establish control of the center before taking the pawn on c2. For that reason, after the opening of the f-file for the Rook, White will not allow Nxc2! At the same time, the last move gives Black wide options of both short and long castles, but of course Black only dreams of long castling, otherwise, the Kingside attack by White would be unstoppable! 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.Kd1 Even though the King in the center without possibility to castle might look bad, the fact it is that White's King is safe on d1 and on the other hand, Black has issues with an opened f-file which will be conquered by White after Rf1 and the forthcoming Bg5 will put Black into trouble! One should not forget that the Bishop pair that gives us a relatively easy game afterward and Black does not have enough resources to jeopardize it! c6 Not only that with c6 Black prevents any possible Nd5 which would be uncomfortable after Bg5, but also threatens to put White's light-squared Bishop into danger after b4. Instead, 11...Nh5 would be a bit bland after 12.Qg4 Nf6 13.Qh4 and White has a

nice position and initiative with the idea of Bg5, Nd5, and Rf1! 12.a4 White prevents the b5 threat aiming to continue with Rf1 as well as keeping the strongest piece in this position - the Bishop on c4!. One should not forget that Black's pawn on g7 still hangs and Black will need to defend it now. Rg8 13.Rf1 White is ready to develop the dark-squared Bishop to g5 with pressure on the Knight on f6. h6 14.Ne2 Since Black defended against the threat of Bg5 and stopped White's initiative for a moment, White turns to another plan of simplifying. Not only that White aims to exchange Knights, but also has an idea to gain full central control after c3, which can come along with b4 and space control on the Queenside. 0-0-0 15.Nxd4 Bxd4 16.c3 With a Bishop pair as the main asset White will continue with the hunt on Black's dark-squared Bishop with b4 and a5 and the King will be safe after simple Kc2. Bb6 17.a5 Bc7 18.Be3 Taking every opportunity to develop and improve the activity of pieces, White attacks the a7 pawn and gains a tempo after a development move. Kb8 19.Kc2 As it was shown in a game Rubinstein, A-Hromadka, K Moravska Ostrava 1923 White is clearly better with a long-term advantage of the Bishop pair and control of the f- and a-file. Meanwhile, Black has no opportunity for counterattack or activity. Ka8 20.Rf3 Nd5 21.Bg1 Nf4 22.Qf2 Bb8 23.g3 Nxh3 24.Rxf7 Qd6 25.Qb6 Rd7 26.Bc5 Rxf7 27.Bxd6 Rf2+ 28.Qxf2 Nxf2 29.Bc5 Reference Games-Rubinstein,A]

[9...Nxc2+ This might look like the most dangerous line for White, since the Rook on a1 hangs. However, after moving the King away from the check White starts action on the Kingside! 10.Kd1 Nxa1 *(10...Nh5* Black chooses to play an important intermediary move to defend the g7 pawn at the same time attacking White's Queen. It is a fact that White will play a position down material but the point is that Black can not use this advantage due to the inactive and undeveloped pieces! *11.Qf3* Both Black's Knights are under attack now and Black has no more intermediary moves to play. It is clear that after Black takes the Rook on a1, the Knight will not have a place to escape from the corner, and on the other hand, after White's Qh5 the pawn on f7 will be hanging. *Nxa1 12.Qxh5* It is obvious that White has a very interesting position to play and it can be already now said that White's compensation for an exchange is huge! With a direct threat of Qf7 and a plan of Rf1 and possible fxe5, White will have a deadly attack on Black's King. Meanwhile, Black's Knight on a1 is trapped and can not be activated, and Black will need to focus on defense instead of material advantage! *0-0 13.f5* White seizes space for Black's pieces and continues with an attack aiming to play Rf1 with threats of Nd5 and f6, and of course, the Rook can easily swing to g-file after Rf3 and Rg3. Even though White's King is in the center, you should not have concerns about it, because Black has no possibility to reach any activity and to

compromise King's position! *c6* Black's only opportunity to search for a counterattack is to start to push pawns on the Queenside. With c6, Black prepares for b5 which would solve the problem of the trapped Knight on a1. If Black manages to go for b5 and White moves the Bishop away on the only available square-b3, Black would be good after Nb3. However, White is on the move! *14.Rf1* With a very direct threat of f6, White aims to conquer the dark squares on the Kingside, because Black will not be able to defend the g7 square. In that manner, with this clever development move, White stopped Black's idea of b5 and starts proving that White's play is clearly better here! *Kh8* Black's retreat from the possible pin on g-file leads to disasters now! If someone wondered what would happen if Black chooses to conclude the previous idea of b5, here is an answer: 14...b5 White dives into Black's Kingside with 15.f6! and Black is forced to take it with 15...gxf6 due to a threat of Qg5 and Qg7#, after 16.Bxb5 cxb5 17.Nd5 White is easily winning with the forthcoming Nf6 and Black's pawn on h7 will be undefendable! *15.Bxf7* And White has a decisive advantage and a winning position with the idea of Bg6. One should not forget that if Black defends the h7 pawn with h6 there is a beautiful tactical possibility thanks to the dark-squared Bishop and Black can not defend after Bxh6! 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc*)* 11.Qxg7 White starts forcing Black to regret taking the material advantage with Nxc2 and Nxa1 and immediately takes the initiative threatening at the same time mate on f7 and the Rook on h8. Rf8 This is a suspicious move, even though it looks like the most natural defense of the Rook and the pawn. Interestingly enough, literally everyone, on all kinds of levels went for it against me! On the other hand, If Black went instead for 11...Kd7 12. fxe5 dxe5 13.Rf1 White has a clear initiative due to the open f-file and threats to the Knight on f6 and pawn on f7. One should not forget that Black's Knight on a1 is trapped and can be considered as a piece that is out of the game for the time being! 12.fxe5 It is obvious that White forces the opening of the f-file and prepares for further development with Bg5 which would put Black's Knight on f6 into an uncomfortable pin! dxe5 13.Rf1 Be7 14.Bg5 It is clear that Black needs to give up on the Knight keeping only the Knight on a1 which gives the material advantage of an exchange. As it was previously mentioned, the Knight on a1 is trapped and can not find a way out from the corner! It is clear that Black needs to give up on the Knight keeping only the Knight on a1 which gives the material advantage of an exchange. As it was previously mentioned, the Knight on a1 is trapped and can not find a way out from the corner! The full alternative line can be found here Nxe4 This is a bad move by Black which was played in a game between Fischer, R-McDermott, M in New York 1964. Black had hopes that opening

the position would help to simplify the position, but that did not age well since Fischer forced him to resignation within 3 moves only! *(14...Qd7* Black gives the Knight on f6 away and hopes to resolve all of the problems with the King after the forthcoming O-O-O having an exchange as the material advantage. *15.Bxf6* White takes on the offer and grabs the material and has a plan to gain an even bigger material advantage after taking the Knight on a1 which can not escape after a simple attacking move! *0-0-0* White should not worry about the possibility of 15...Bxf6?! because White gains a clearly better position after 16.Qxf6 and Black can not defend the threat of Nd5 or the idea of Kd2 when the Knight on a1 would not have space to escape from an attack. *16.Bxe5* Of course, White does not need to hurry to take the trapped Knight on a1, because Black can not do anything about it! *c6* Black tries to use the attack on the d3 pawn and prepares b5. This might look dangerous at the moment but with a simple move, White covers everything and enjoys a winning position! If instead of 16...c6 Black went for 16... Qc6 threatening to use the pin on White's King, after a very important intermediary check of 17.Qg4 Kb8 White is winning with a simple 18.Kc1 putting King into safety and threatening to proceed with Kb1 and Ka1 with great control of the center provided by the Bishop pair! *17.Rf3* Thanks to this amazing move 17.Rf3! Black is practically in a stalemate without a good move to play! With a trapped Knight on a1 and hanging f7 pawn, Black has no hopes for b5 anymore, since the Rook on f3 controls d3 square and still controls the f-line. It is questionable how Black can proceed here and meanwhile White has a completely winning position with a simple plan of Bf7 and Kc1. I would emphasize that instead of 17.Rf3! the move of 17.Qg4!? is very interesting from a practical point of view and after 17...Qxg4 18.hxg4 b5 White is clearly better after 19. Nxb5! cxb5 20.Bxb5 , since Black will lose a Knight on a2 and White, will keep Bishop and three pawns for a single Rook, and that is besides having the Bishop pair on the board! 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc*)* 15.Nxe4 f5 Of course, if Black played instead of 15...Bxg5 16.Rxf7 White is easily winning with full control of the f-file and undefendable mate! 16.Qxh7 And thanks to all active pieces White threatens a mate with Qg6 and Qe6! Bxg5 17.Qg6+ Reference Games-Fischer,R And McDermott resigned not allowing Fischer to conclude a nice game with the forthcoming Qe6#. Not a gentleman's gesture!]

[9...exf4 Black plays a tricky move aiming to open the position and to force the move Bf4 losing the dark-squared Bishop as the main asset of the initiative after Nh5. Of course, White does not buy that and proceeds aggressively! 10.Qxg7 Black is faced with a double attack on the Rook on h8 and pawn on f7 and needs to react with a defensive move. Rf8 11.Kd1 White moves the King to a safe spot and defends the c2 pawn

and we are ready to create an action on the semi-opened f-file! Qe7 This is a clever move by Black who improves the defense of the f7 pawn and prepares for Rg8 to conquer g-file with a tempo and g2 pawn would be hanging. 12.Qh6 White prevents the attack with Rg8 with the idea of Qf4 and Rf1! Rg8 13.Qxf4 Without concerns about the hanging g2 pawn White searches for the initiative on the f-file aiming to expose Black's centralized King to attacks, as well as a vulnerable Knight on f6 and pawn f7. Rxg2 14.Rf1 According to the engines, the position is unclear with equal chances for both sides. In practice, White has more direct threats with full control of the f-file. To search for the initiative on the 2nd rank Black would be forced to sacrifice Knight on f6 entering an interesting position. Of course, it is questionable if in the real game Black will be ready to give up the Knight for an unclear position, but it is important to understand that even in that case, Black will be forced to play the best moves to keep it equal. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

10.fxe5 White still ignores the Nc2 threat and opens the position according to rules of play with Bishop pair on the board. Black needs to think about hanging Knight on f6 now, and of course, about the possible pin after Bh6! 10...Nxc2+

[10...dxe5 Black recognizes the danger of Nxc2 and proceeds with the stable move of 10...dxe5. Due to active pieces of Black and good development, White can not neglect the threat of Nxc2 anymore. 11.Kd1 Due to the threat of Nc2, White decides to defend it with 11.Kd1! Although the King is still in the center, it can not be said that the King is vulnerable, because Black can not reach it easily. With the Bishop pair as the long-term advantage, White has the idea to proceed with an attack on the Kingside with the development move of Rf1 and the possibility of Bh6. One should not forget that Bg5 would be uncomfortable as well and Black will be forced to step back to defend the vulnerable Knight. To keep the Bishop pair safe, White can also proceed with a4, stopping all the activities of Black on the Queenside and a2 will be a safe spot for the light-squared Bishop. The engines give equal chances to both sides here, but a human can find it interesting and different than the usual lines, and this should be an advantage of this variation. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

11.Kd1 Nh5 12.Qg4 Nxa1 13.Qxh5 With a Bishop pair on the board and active Queen on h5 which controls e5 square as well, Black can not think about material advantage. Additionally, it is questionable if the Knight on a1 can be saved after the development of the dark-squared Bishop followed by Kd2.

13...dxe5 14.Qxe5 Of course, the Knight on a1 can not escape, so White does not hurry to take it but keeps going for the initiative! 14...Bd4

15.Qd5 With the idea of Qd8 White aims to enter an endgame with the huge activity of the Bishop pair and a simple plan of Bg5, Rf1 and the

possibility of Kd2 attacking the Knight on a1 and gaining two pieces against a Rook which is considered to be a decisive advantage. 15...c6 16.Qxd8 Raxd8 17.Bg5

[17.a4 Preventing Black's idea of b5 which might be uncomfortable, White is ready to develop with Bg5 and keeps an option to take the trapped Knight on a1 after Kd2 and Rxa1. I must emphasize that the engines do not admire the position for White here, but in practice, as it could be seen in the game Pichushkin, V-Nadeev, S ICCF email 2012, it was shown that both sides have chances for an interesting play and a fight for the win.]

17...Rd7 18.a4 b5 19.axb5 cxb5 20.Nxb5 Bxb2 21.Bf4 g5 22.Bh2 a5 23.Rf1 a4 24.Rf2 a3 25.Nxa3 Bxa3 26.Ra2 Bd6 27.Bxd6 Rxd6 28.Rxa1 Rb8 29.Ra2 Kg7 30.Kd2 Rdb6 31.Kc3 R8b7 32.Bd5 Rc7+ 33.Kd4 Rb1 34.e5 Rd7 35.Ra5 Rc1 36.Ra2 Re1 37.Ra6 Re2 38.Rf6 h6 39.Rf1 Rb2 40.Kc5 Rb8 41.Kc6 Rbb7 42.Kc5 Ra7 43.Bc4 Ra5+ 44.Kc6 Re7 45.Bd5 Rea7 46.Rf3 Re7 47.d4 Raa7 48.Kc5 Ra6 49.Bc6 Ra2 50.Rf5 Rc2+ Reference Games-Pichushkin,V

[15] **7...0-0** Black castles, trying to dictate the pace hoping for some solid play. White has no troubles here and puts the King into safety with O-O after removing the dark-squared Bishop. 8.Nxc5 dxc5 9.0-0 White's King is safe and White has a long-term advantage of the Bishop pair and better pawn structure. White's play will be aimed against Black's weak pawn structure and the light-squared Bishop which will be blocked with 10.f5. 9...Qd6 Black tries to activate all the pieces aiming to continue with Nd4 and Rad8. Of course, that does not stop White from playing against the Bishop on g4. 10.f5 White prepares the field for the opening of the Kingside because Black will be forced at some moment to take the Knight on f3. The idea of White is simple, after a4 which creates a safe spot for Bishop on c4, and c3 which prevents Nd4, White will be able to continue with Qd2, Qg5, Kh1 and Rg1 afterward. 10...Bxf3 If Black takes the Knight immediately, hoping that they will gain activity after Nd4, White will just go for the same plan of opening the g-file!

[10...Nd4 11.a4 Black uses the last opportunity to pin the Knight on f3, but that does not change White's plan of Qd2, c3, and Kh1. There is no activity for Black on the Queenside, since the b5 threat is stopped. One should not forget that at some point Black will be forced to take the Knight on f3 and after gxf3 the g-file will be opened for the Rook with future actions aimed against Black's King! 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

11.gxf3 Although it might look that White unnecessarily opened up the King, there is a clever plan of Kh1 followed by Rg1, and Black's King would be suddenly in trouble. White's attack will be improved when the Queen joins the Kingside

after Qe1 and Qh4! 11...Na5 Black's only possibility is to find counter-play on the Queenside by taking the light-squared Bishop which is eyeing Black's King. Anyway, White will keep enough pieces after this trade to attack Black's King. 12.Bb3 Of course, White will not allow Black to open the d-file and to activate the Queen and Rook. If Black insists on a trade, they will have to open the a-file for White, which might be useful later on. 12...Nxb3 13.axb3 Black is stuck to a point where White controls all of the board. The a-file is opened for the Rook on a1 stopping Black's actions on the Queenside, and at the same time, White still wants to continue with an attack on the Kingside after Qe1, Qh4, Kh1, and Rg1 toggling all of the heavy pieces against Black's lonely King. 13...a5 14.Qe1 Not only that White swings the Queen to h4, but does it with an attack on the exposed a5 pawn. While White prepares further prepares the attack while Black needs to defend the Queenside! 14...b6 15.Qh4 Nd7 Black is forced to search for the defense of the King and aims to create space for the Knight after Re8. However, it is questionable if that could be helpful. 16.Kh1 Learn how to attack when the pawn structure is broken! King goes on h1, one Rook goes on g1 and then g3, while the other one's path is a1 to g1 altogether with the idea of Bc1-Bh6, and all of that already looks extremely promising! 16...Rfe8 17.Rg1 As it was shown in a game Averell-Brener playchess.com INT 2008 White is clearly better with a harsh attack after Rg3, Bh6, Rag1, and a possible Rh3. All of White's pieces are eyeing Black's King and Black has no good defender. Additionally, as my experience has shown, such positions are practically extremely hard to defend in real games, although engines give 'only' a clear advantage to White. 17...Qc6 18.Rg3 a4 19.bxa4 Reference Games-Averell vs. Brener

7...Bb6 Black prevents problems with a possibly hanging pawn on e5 after the forthcoming Nxc5! Black chooses to trade the Bishop on the b6 square instead of c5 realizing that it is better to have double pawns on b-file than to have them on a c-file. Of course, 7...Bb4 gives nothing due to a simple c3 which was White's idea anyway. 8.h3 White forces Black to react and gets rid of the pin. Black is practically forced to take the Knight and White will develop the Queen while recapturing! 8...Bxf3 9.Qxf3 White's idea is to simply continue with c3, stopping Black from activating their pieces after Nd4. Despite that, White controls the center and has a clear advantage of the Bishop pair and a better pawn structure which will be gained after Nxb6. 9...0-0

[9...Nd4 This is the most active move by Black who hopes that White will lose a tempo by stepping back with the Queen. However, White does not need to go back to the starting position! 10.Qf2 Black can not use

the pin because Black's dark-squared Bishop is under attack. The Queen is perfectly safe on this square and supports the hanging c2 pawn. 0-0 This is the most logical move by Black who concludes development. Anyway there is very interesting continuation after 10...Ba5 11.c3 b5 12.O-O bxc4 13.cxd4 exd4 14.Qxd4 and White is clearly better with a threat of e5! That forces Black to castle and White can continue with simple development after Qc4 , Be3 , and Rac1 controlling c-file and threatening Black's pawn on c7. 11.fxe5 White prepares to conquer the f-file after c3 and O-O! More so, White follows the famous rule to open up the position with a Bishop pair. dxe5 12.c3 Ne6 13.Nxb6 White finally captures the meaningless Bishop on b6 and gains another long-term advantage since Black will create doubled pawns weakness on the Queenside after the recapture. axb6 14.0-0 White is at least slightly better with an easy plan of Be3 and a4, gaining space on the Queenside, with control of the center and the f-file as well. With a possibility for a central break with d4 and the Bishop pair as the main advantage, this position definitely brings joy to the player with the white pieces. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

10.c3 With the prevention of a possibly uncomfortable Nd4, White builds a strong center, aiming to continue with Nb6 and O-O! 10...Na5 Black uses the opportunity to chase the light-squared Bishop, trying to seize White's main asset the Bishop pair. However, after this move, White has opportunities for direct play! 11.fxe5 Not only that we open f-file which will be gained after Nxb6 and O-O, but White opens up space for the dark-squared Bishop which will go to g5! 11...dxe5 12.Bg5 As soon as White settles down this Bishop here, it becomes obvious that the Knight on f6 will be a long-term weakness that is hard to defend! 12...Nxc4 13.dxc4 White should not be concerned about pawn weaknesses on the c-file and isolated e-pawn because Black has much more troubles thanks to the pinned Knight on f6 and due to an immediate threat of c5! Despite that, White has a direct threat of Rf1 and the f6 spot cannot be defended anymore, resulting in a pawn-up advantage for us. One should not forget that after 13. dxc4 we also gained an open d-file and Black needs to think about Rd1 as well! 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

7...Nd4 This looks like both the most tempting and the most natural follow-up by Black who previously played 6...Bg4 to threaten with a pin. In spite of that, 7...Nd4?! is suspicious because it allows White to gain full central control, better pawn structure, and a Bishop pair advantage! 8.c3 White threatens the Knight and gets rid of the pin forcing Black to react. Possible double pawns on the f-file should not concern you because White will take the Bishop pair immediately afterward, and pawns on the f-file will not be doubled for a long time

due to the possibility of fxe5. 8...Nxf3+ If Black instead goes for 8... Bxf3 9.gxf3 Nc6 10.fxe5 Nxe5 11. Bb3 White would be clearly better with a direct threat of d4 , full central control, and the Bishop pair as the main asset. 9.gxf3 As it was previously mentioned, White should not worry about the doubled pawns on f-file because Black has issues controlling the center. With both Bishops under attack, Black cannot defend e5 pawn after the forthcoming Nc5! 9...Bh5 10.Nxc5 We are quite happy to remove this Bishop! Also, it gives us a healthier pawn structure and the Bishop pair advantage! 10...dxc5 11.fxe5 Despite the Bishop pair, White now has a material advantage of a clear pawn up which will be supported with a simple developing move of Bf4! 11...Nd7 Black could also go for a tricky 11...Nxe4? since 12.dxe4 does not work for White due to 12...Qxd1 13.Kxd1 Bxf3! , but after 12.O-O! White is clearly better since Black has issues finding a good spot for the Knight. White's plan is simple afterward, we will conclude development with Qe2, Be3 and Rad1, and the center will be fully controlled after d4! 12.Bf4 The advantage of White is clear, with a pawn up, Bishop pair, and easy plan of O-O, followed by d4 and further development, such as Qe2 and Rad1. Despite the dominance of White, it needs to be said that Black has no possibility for counter-play, for example, 12... Qh4 is met with 13.Bg3! 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

16 **10.Bxf4** Qd7 11.Nxc5 White finally reaches a goal to take the Bishop pair and has an idea to proceed with c3 to kick out Black's Knight from the center and of course, development afterward. 11...dxc5 12.c3 It is obvious that Black does not have a nice spot for the Knight and that they will start to feel pressure in the center by White's Bishops and pawns fortress. If Black does not find a way to remove the Bishop pair, White has an easy play with a clear advantage. 12...b5 This is practically the only move that gives Black hopes to have any counter-play. White's light-squared Bishop does not have a good spot to step back to but there is a useful tactical motive that provides a clearly better position to White! 13.Bxf7+ White certainly does not want to open d-file after 13.Bb3 Nxb3 because the pawn on d3 would be a target. This way, White keeps a healthy structure and reaches position with a better dark-squared Bishop which controls Black's c7 pawn as a possible weakness. 13...Qxf7 14.cxd4 cxd4 15.Qc2 As it was shown in a game Schmidt, G-Andexel, H ICCF corr 1990, Black will not be able to defend all of the pawns on the Queenside. White has a direct threat of Qc6 and at the same time, the c7 pawn hangs. White has a clear advantage and can proceed patiently with O-O, Rfc1, and Black will not be able to hold pressure. 15...Rc8 16.Be5

0-0 17.Bxd4 c6 18.0-0 Qe6 19.Bxa7 Ra8 20.Qb3 Qxb3 21.axb3 Rfd8 22.Bb6 Rxa1 23.Bxd8 Rxf1+ 24.Kxf1 Ng4 25.h3 Ne5 26.Ke2 Nd7 27.b4 Kf7 28.d4 Ke6 29.g4 h6 30.h4 g6 31.h5 g5 32.Ke3 Kd6 33.Kf3 Ke6 34.Bc7 Nf6 35.Be5 Ne8 36.Ke3 Reference Games-Schmidt,G

17 **4...g6** This is the most resilient move by Black who is desperate to secure the King's safety after Kf8 and Kg7. One should not forget that Black also has a threat of d5, which needs to be prevented. 5.Qf3 Black is once again forced to find good defensive moves whilst White prepares for development after Nge2, g3, and Bg5, and of course - Scholars mate on f7! 5...Nf6 Instead of 5...Nf6 Black might think it is useful to exchange Queens in an early opening, thinking that that would help gain some space for pieces. However, every exchange in this position fits well for White, since after 5...Qf6 6.Nd5 Qxf3 7. Nxf3 Bb6 8.c3 White has a clear long-term advantage of the Bishop pair which will be gained after Nxb6, and Black will struggle with a worse pawn structure as well. 6.Nge2 With a simple developing move, White prevents Black's threat of Nd4 and aims to keep pressure after d3 and Bg5. Unlike Patzer's opening, where Black's Bishop stands on g7 and defends the Knight on f6; here, Black looks way more vulnerable since Nf6 lacks proper defense, or they have to lose tempo to defend it! Also, while Bg7 improves the defense of the dark squares, not only around the Knight but most importantly around the King and the extremely vulnerable dark-squares on the kingside! 6...d6 Black can search for the only activity with d6 followed by Bg4, trying to expose White's Queen to attacks.

[6...0-0 It is questionable if Black's King can feel safe on the Kingside. All the White's pieces are eyeing the King, and White is ready for an attack as it will be shown. 7.d3 It is clear that White controls all the dark squares around Black's King and that Black has issues with a Knight on f6. White keeps developing, gaining tempos, and Black is forced to defend before continuing development. Threats are Bg5 and Bh6. Kg7 8.Bg5 Once again, White forces Black to step back and defend the Knight on f6 due to a threat of Nd5! Be7 9.h3 This is a significant prophylactic move by White who kills all Black's hopes for active play. With 9.h3, White stops possible d6 and Bg4 and gets ready for O-O-O, followed by Qe3 and f4! d6 10.Qe3 Faced with a threat of Bh6, Black is certainly not happy with this position after only ten moves of play. White's plan is easy after O-O-O, f4, and Rdf1 and a massive attack on the Kingside. Despite that, Black does not have hopes for any counter-play but only searches for a way to keep the King safe. 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

7.d3 White does not need to worry about Bg4, because the Queen has a lot of squares to go for. For that reason, White chooses to continue with fast development and gains

control of the dark squares! 7...Bg4 8.Qg3 After a simple step back, Black is practically forced to once again play with the same Bishop due to the threat of Bg5, which would be very uncomfortable altogether with Nd5! 8...Be6 Instead of 8...Be6, which comes with a hope that after an exchange of the light-squared Bishops Black can win back some activity. 8...h6 aimed against Bg5 is commonly played in practice. However, after 8...h6 9.a3 White is at least slightly better with a safe spot for the light-squared Bishop, which might go to a2 , and further plan of Bd2, O-O-O, and f4! 9.Bg5 Of course White is not concerned about doubled pawns on the c-file if Black takes Bxc4. That would be for White's benefit since after O-O-O, we will have another file in control, and Black still needs to think about the defense of the Knight on f6 which faces lots of issues after Qh4 and Nd5! 9...h6 Although Black hopes to kick out the annoying dark-squared Bishop, that ain't going to be easy!

[9...Nh5 Black might try to force a trade of the Queens aiming to save the King, which has obvious issues with development. Of course, White will not accept that offer! 10.Qh4 We keep control of the dark squares, and the fact is that Black will face issues with a marginalized Knight on h5! Qd7 11.Ng3 As it was mentioned, White starts the hunt on the h5-Knight. Black is practically forced to trade the Knight for the dark-squared Bishop, giving a pawn away, just to retake control over the dark squares around the King. Nf4 12.Bxf4 exf4 13.Qxf4 Of course, with a clear pawn up on the board and a huge development advantage, White does not need to search for complications anymore, but aims to simplify position entering a winning endgame with material advantage. Bxc4 14.dxc4 0-0-0 15.0-0-0 As it was played in the game Watson, W-Murshed, N London 1992, White gained full center control and a position with a pawn up. With the forthcoming Nd4, Kb1, and Rhe1, White has an easy play based on the material advantage and control of the dark squares on the Kingside. Bd4 16.Nge2 Bg7 17.c5 Qe6 18.cxd6 cxd6 19.Kb1 Kb8 20.Rd5 Nb4 21.Rb5 Nc6 22.Rd1 Be5 23.Qe3 g5 24.Nd5 h6 25.Nb4 Ka8 26.Rd3 Qc4 27.Nxc6 Qxc6 28.Ra3 a6 29.Rb6 Qc4 30.Rd3 Rhe8 31.b3 Qc7 32.Nc3 f5 33.Nd5 Qf7 34.Qf3 Bg7 35.Rb4 Qg6 36.Nc7+ Kb8 37.e5 Reference Games-Watson,W]

10.Qh4 White keeps the choke on Black's pieces and defends the piece with the most active move, which comes with a threat on the Knight on f6! Black is forced to search for any tactical engagements to save the piece, but it is pretty much late, and White gains a decisive advantage! 10...Ng4 With a motive of Bxf2 in mind, Black hopes to win those exchanges on that end without any material loss. 11.Bxe6 This is a very important intermediary move that guarantees a winning position to White as it will be shown within a few moves! 11...Bxf2+ 12.Qxf2 Nxf2 13.Bxd8 Nxh1 14.Bf6 The arising

position that we already analyzed here is completely winning for White! I decided to take this game as a model game, just to show you how even top players, in Rapid games, failed to find the best answer to the Bishop's opening. Here, believe it or not, Black was almost hopeless after 4.Qg4! - move four! It can rarely happen in any other opening, not to mention the boring Ruy Lopez :CC EndBracket CC These beautiful tactical motives could be seen in a Rapid game between Mamedyarov, S-Amin, B INT Rapid 2020 where White gains a decisive material advantage of two Bishops for a Rook. Despite that, Black's Knight on h1 has no space to move away, and the game is practically over after only 14 moves! 14...fxe6 For Black it doesn't make any sense to play anything else besides the text move. For example, if 14... Rf8?! 15.Bg4 and White, in the worst-case scenario, would have at least two pieces for the rook CC StartBracket CC which is more than enough to claim that the arising position is winning CC EndBracket CC , but keep in mind, the Knight on h1 is trapped and it is about to get trapped as well! 15.Bxh8 Mamedyarov is now up a Bishop, and the Knight on h1 is about to fall, and for a player of that class even being up a pawn is enough, not to mention this gigantic material advantage. Although, it is always nice to see how fast and precise top players realize their decisive advantage... 15...Kf7 16.Kd2 Threatening Rxh1. 16...Nf2 would not be enough since after 17.Rf1 it falls anyway. 16...Rxh8 17.Rxh1 a6 18.Rf1+ Kg7 19.Nd1 Rf8 20.Rxf8 Kxf8 21.c3 Kf7 22.Ke3 Kf6 23.h4 Reference Games-Mamedyarov,S I have to express my big satisfaction when, last year, while I was following the Rapid tourney in Sharjah, I saw this game. It clearly showed me that this variation can be used at the top-level, that this seemingly logical approach by Black with 1...e5 2...Nc6 and 3... Bc5 CC StartBracket CC where lots of weaker guys tend to play like this because they think they can play in the same manner as vs. a Guiocco Piano CC EndBracket CC really does not seem to be working! Enjoy your future games and feel free to share your positive experience with us soon! Thank you :CCEndBracketCC

4...Kf8 Black decides to leave the King in the center and threatens a direct d5. Despite that, Black's idea is to hunt White's Queen after Nf6, d6, and Bg4, but that can not compensate for bad development choices and a weak King on f8! 5.Qf3 It could be seen that White has played here 5.Qg3 as well, but I have no doubts that Qf3 is a better move with an aggressive approach and an immediate threat of Qxf7#! 5...Nf6 6.Nge2 With a simple development, we prove that Black's position after the 6th move is not desirable at all. Black has many issues with further development while White prepares for the

uncomfortable d3, Bg5, and Nd5! On top of that, Black has no possibility to get any Nd4's in. 6...d6 7.d3 Bg4 This is practically the only chance for Black to gain activity. If they did not go for Bg4, White would be able to stop all the threats after 8.h3 with easy play afterward! 8.Qg3 Qd7 Black aims to chase White's Queen with Nh5, but we have time to clear space. If Black instead went for 8...h5 9.h4 White is at least slightly better with the forthcoming Bg5 and normal development! 9.h3 After a clever 9. h3, White's Queen is not exposed to threats, and White gains at least a development advantage after the forthcoming Bg5. 9...Be6 10.Bg5 It is clear that White is much better and Black is chained onto the back-rank without the possibility to activate the dormant pieces. The knight on f6 is under attack, and White threatens to open the already weakened King, and it is unclear how will Black defend after O-O-O, f4, and Rdf1/ Rhf1! 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

[18] **10.Qg3** As it could be seen in the game between Mamedyarov, S-Harikrishnan, A 2020 chess.com, after a clever step back with 10.Qg3 White is ready for domination in a clearly better position with a plan of Rf1, Ng5, and c3. Whilst White's King is safe in the center on the d1 spot, Black's King is more than vulnerable and exposed to harsh attacks, altogether with the f7 pawn! 10...Nf6 11.Rf1 Nxe4 12.Nxe7 d5 13.Qg6 Bg4+ 14.Ke1 Nf6 15.Rxf6 gxf6 16.Qxf6 e4 17.Nxd5 exd3 18.Bh6+ Ke8 19.Bxd3 Rxh6 20.Qxd4 Nxd4 21.Nxc7+ Kd7 22.Nxa8 Rh8 23.Nf2 Rxa8 24.Kd2 Rg8 25.c3 Nc6 26.Nxg4 hxg4 27.Ke3 Ne5 28.Bf5+ Ke7 29.Kf4 f6 30.Rd1 Rh8 31.Kg3 Rh5 32.Rf1 Rg5 33.Rf4 Kd6 34.a4 b6 35.Bc8 Ke7 36.Bf5 Rg8 37.Rd4 Rg7 38.b4 Rg5 39.Rf4 Rg8 40.c4 Rd8 41.Bxg4 Rd3+ 42.Bf3 Ra3 43.c5 Rxa4 44.cxb6 axb6 45.h4 Ra1 46.h5 Rh1 47.Be2 Re1 48.Re4 Rc1 49.h6 Kf7 50.Rh4 Kg8 51.h7+ Kh8 52.Rh6 Rc6 53.Kf4 Nf7 54.Rh1 Re6 55.Bg4 Re5 56.Bf5 Ng5 57.Rd1 Ne6+ 58.Kg4 Kg7 59.Rd7+ Kh8 60.Rd6 Nf8 61.Rd8 Kg7 62.Rxf8 Kxf8 63.h8Q+ Ke7 64.Qh7+

Reference Games-Mamedyarov,S

[19] **3...Be7** 4.f4 d6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.0-0 0-0 7.d3 Na5

[7...Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nd4 10.Qf2 c6 11.a4 Nh5 Black threatens to activate the dark-squared Bishop with a very uncomfortable Bh4 which would put White into trouble to find a good spot for the Queen. 12.g3 This is practically the only move that gives an advantage to White! White keeps the Bishops pair with an idea to play Kg2 and consolidate the King, followed by Be3, additional space control after a5, and one should not forget that the light-squared Bishop has a safe spot on a2 after a possible 12...d5 by Black. d5 13.exd5 *(13.Ba2* White puts the Bishop back into safety and threatens to open the position up with fxe5, which would open up space on the board for our Bishop pair! An alternative could be

13.exd5 Bc5 14.Kh2 which was played in the game Fernandez Ballon, A - Kirwald, F Remote email 2013, and White is slightly better with an idea of Be3 and a pawn up. *Bd6* Black aims to defend the e5 pawn with a threat of exf4 which would open the space around White's King. If Black decides to go for 13...Bc5 14.Be3 would block all of the threats, and White has a clearly better position with a safe Bishop pair, threatening to take either the e5 or d5 pawn, since both are hanging! *14.f5* And after the last move, all of Black's threats are blocked and Black needs to think about the safety of the d5 hanging pawn. The further plan for White can be Kg2 - tucking the King away to a safe spot, followed by a developing move, such as Be3, and White is clearly better with huge activity whilst Black's pieces are exposed to attacks! 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc*)* 13...Bc5 14.Kh2 exf4 15.gxf4 Nb3 16.Qf3 Nxa1 17.Qxh5 Nxc2 18.dxc6 Bd4 19.cxb7 Reference Games-Fernandez Ballon,A]

8.Bb3 Nxb3 9.axb3 Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.Qe1 exf4 12.Bxf4 Not only that White keeps the idea of Qf2 which would put pressure on a7 pawn, but White can also swing the Queen to g3, since Black has no possibility for Nh5 anymore! 12...d5 13.e5 Whilst Black desperately tried to gain any activity with 12...d5 White once again takes full control of the game and forces Black to step back once again! The idea is to continue aggressively with g4-Qg3 and a possible Knight maneuver with Ne2, followed by Be3, Nf4, and h4! 13...Ne8 14.g4 It is clear that White has huge initiative due to the passively positioned Black pieces locked on the back rank. White simply goes for the previously mentioned idea of Qg3-Ne2-h4 and possible Be3, followed by Nf4! On the other side, it is not clear how Black can improve the position at the moment. 14...Bg6 15.Qg3 c6 Black takes some fresh air to relieve the back rank after Nc7-Ne6. However, I would say that Black is too slow. White can keep going with the previously mentioned idea of Ne2! 16.Ne2 After 16.Ne2 White gains a huge initiative. White's plan should be based on the pressure on the Kingside, mainly with h4-h5, but one should not forget that the attack can be improved with Kh2, Rf2, Rh1, Bd2 followed by Nf4, or Ne2-Nd4 followed by Nf5, as it could be seen in the game Skryago, M -Voetter, H ICCF email 2017. 16...f5 17.exf6 Nxf6 18.Ned4 Bc5 19.b4 Bb6 20.Rae1 Ne4 21.Qh2 Qd7 22.c3 c5 23.Ne5 Qc8 24.bxc5 Nxc5 25.Qe2 Nb3 26.Be3 Nxd4 27.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 28.cxd4 Qe6 29.Kg2 Qd6 30.h4 Rxf1 31.Rxf1 Rf8 32.Rxf8+ Qxf8 33.g5 Qe8 34.Qf3 Qe6 35.Kg3 Be8 36.Qe3 a5 37.Nc4 Kf7 38.Qxe6+ Kxe6 39.Nxa5 b6 40.Nb3 Bb5 41.Nc1 Kf5 42.Kf3 Ba6 Reference Games-Skryago,M

[20] **4...Be7** 5.f4 d6 Black chooses to go for fast development as well, with the most common idea of Bg4 and O-O. One should not forget that 5...Na5 6.Bb3 Nxb3 7.axb3 would be a transposition into the

line with 4...Na5 5.Bb3 Nxb3 6.axb3 Be7. 6.Nf3 As expected, White continues with active development and puts some pressure on the central e5 pawn. Also, short castle is coming too, with simple development. 6...0-0 This is a common mistake and an absolutely logical move that has been played in more than 400 games so far! Quite interesting enough, 'only' few top guys knew about the following refutation - 7.f5!

[6...Bg4 With this move Black has a very direct threat of Nd4 and White needs to react! I would say that natural follow-up 6...O-O?! can be considered as a terrible move, since White blocks all of the possible routes for Black to activate the pieces after 7.f5! and Black has difficulties finding space for the development of the light-squared bishop. If Black continues with 7...Na5 aiming to remove our Bishop from c4, White would be clearly better after 8.a4! Nxc4 9. dxc4 c6 10.Bg5 with a space advantage, actively developed pieces, and a d6 target to attack. 7.h3 Due to the previously mentioned threat of Nd4, White needs to react with 7.h3 and to kick out the light-squared Bishop from the h5-d1 diagonal. Bxf3 Black is practically forced to remove the Knight, since 6...Bh5?? would lead him straightly to a losing position after 7.g4 , followed by f5, and the light-squared Bishop has no square to escape to. 6...Bd7 would be met with 7.f5! and a total clamp-on Black's pieces. 8.Qxf3 We have activated the Queen which is now closer to Black's Kingside, and we are ready for the castle! It is very important to notice that White now has an advantage of the Bishop pair which is favorable in open positions, such as this one! Na5 It is a fact that Black can take the Bishop pair off very soon, but one should not forget that Black is already very late with development and it is questionable if they have time for such maneuvers. 9.Bb3 This is a very important move, although it does not save the Bishop. White aims to keep a stable center and a healthy pawn structure which was threatened to be ruined after 9... Nxc4 10.dxc4 . Of course, an alternative could be 9.f5 , and White would be still slightly better after 9... c6 10.a4 due to a huge space control and actively developed pieces. Nxb3 10.axb3 Not only White is ready to conclude development with O-O, but after an exchange, we gained another open file for the Rook on a1 which can attack the a7 pawn! c6 Black intends to prepare a counter-reaction in the center. Also 10...Nd7 could be played instead, but after 11. O-O O-O , White is clearly better with 12.Nd5 and an idea of Bd2 and possible Knight maneuver with Ne3-Nf5! 11.0-0 0-0 12.Ne2 And it is clear that White is much more active than Black. With a threat of Ng3-Nf5, or possible fxe5, Be3, White is clearly better thanks to the active pieces, control of the open files, and huge space for possible maneuvers. 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

7.f5 What is so strong about the last move? It prevents the further activity of the light-squared Bishop

on c8, it prevents both Be6 and Bg4 afterward, it gives White a fairly simple attack on the Kingside followed by g4 and on top of that, Bg5 followed by Qd2 if needed. White already seems to have a very aggressive position with lots of tactical opportunities but more importantly, an easy plan! 7...Na5 This is the only reasonable move to harass and remove one of the crucial pieces in the Bishops' opening - the light-squared Bishop on c4 CC StartBracket CC which importance reminds me of the London Bishop on f4 in the London opening CC EndBracket CC. The last move by Black also gives the possibility to start some action in the center with c6 CC StartBracket CC followed by d5 or b5 afterward CC EndBracket CC, as well as to give himself more space in the middle-game. It is important to emphasize that in the past Black also tried 7...Nd4?! but after 8.O-O! it brought Black nothing but a headache, since it does not remove our 'pride' on c4, threatens nothing, but only allows for one idea which is c6 followed by either b5 or d5. 8.g4 And here White has launched a dangerous attack in the game Wei, Y - Lin, C Xinghua 2014. White has a perfect score with this plan which clearly shows that Black has a hard time defending when the center is closed and when White goes for a mating attack on the Kingside. White's plan is either: - g5 with a further pawn storm. - Qe2 which solidifies White's position and prepares for a lethal Kingside attack. - Or even simply Rg1 like in the Keres Sicilians, further supporting the g5 pawn storm and attack in a better fashion! 8...Nxg4 9.Rg1 Nf6 10.Bh6 Ne8 11.Qd2 Nxc4 12.dxc4 f6 13.0-0-0 Rf7 14.Rg3 c6 15.Rdg1 Bf8 16.Rh3 Qc7 17.Qf2 d5 18.cxd5 Bb4 19.Bd2 Bxc3 20.Bxc3 cxd5 21.Qh4 Qc5 22.Qxh7+ Kf8 23.Rd1 d4 24.Nh4 Nd6 25.Rhd3 Rc7 26.Qh8+ Kf7 27.Rg3 Bxf5 28.Rxg7+ Ke6 29.exf5+ Nxf5 30.Rxc7 Rxh8 31.Rxc5 Rxh4 32.Be1 Rxh2 33.c3 Re2 34.cxd4 Ne3 35.Bd2 Reference Games-Wei,Y

4...Bc5 This is one of the main and most critical lines of the Bishop's opening. According to my playing experience, I faced this move frequently, and it seems that Black mostly chose 4...Bc5 with the idea to compromise White's King after Ng4. However, the positions reached afterward are maybe not so desirable according to the engines'. Still, I would say that they are a bit dangerous, and offer practical and interesting play with many tactical possibilities and attacking ideas. 5.f4 White slides into a very aggressive Vienna Hybrid variation aiming to open the position and to develop an attack on the Kingside. If you have wondered where the White King is going to escape since it is obvious that O-O is not possible due to Bc5 which controls g1 square, of course, the answer is O-O-O! 5...d5 This is a very interesting move by Black which is commonly played Online in Blitz games. Black aims to open the light squared Bishop with

tempo, and intends to play Ng4. Although 5...d5?! can be considered as suspicious, White may encounter a dangerous position if they do not know how to gain an advantage out of it! 6.Nxd5 To avoid any possible complications, it is imperative to play this move 6. Nxd5! White gains a pawn up, material advantage, and starts forcing Black to trade pieces. One should not forget that the side who has a material advantage aims to trade everything, I often say, even underwear! 6...Be6 Black tries to be resilient, but it is too late for that! White has a pawn up and trades everything to enter a winning endgame!

[6...Ng4 This is just another example of how a suspicious move can look dangerous if we do not know how to answer it. Black's idea is to play Bf2 or Nf2, but we do not care about that! White looks for action against the Black's centralized King! 7.f5 White seizes the space for Black and closes the light-squared Bishop, and at the same time, we open a c1-h6 diagonal for the dark-squared Bishop! The Knight on g4 hangs, and needs to be moved, which would result in unleashing the d1-h5 diagonal for White's Queen! Nf2 It is clear that Black will gain the material advantage out of this, but White has a huge initiative and will delay Black's development to benefit out of it! 8.Qh5 White adroitly attacks the f7 square aiming to develop Bg5 with a tempo and to uncover the light-squared Bishop with Nf6! Nxh1 9.Bg5 And as it was previously mentioned, Black faces troubles to defend f7 square. White threatens to unveil the light-squared Bishop after Nf6! Qd6 If you have wondered what would happen if Black defends the f7 square with 9...Qd7 the answer is simple! White goes for 10.Bf6! and Black can not defend against Bxg7, with the forthcoming fork Nf6! 10.Nf6+ Even though Black has a full rook-up, they are forced to resign on the 10th move! The withdrawal could be delayed for a few more moves with 10...gxf6 11.Qxf7 Kd8 12.Bxf6 and ends up with a hopeless position for Black due to a hanging Rook on h8 and upcoming Qf8 followed by Be6#! 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

[6...Nxd5 Black accepts to exchange and opens the d8-h4 diagonal for the Queen and possible Qh4+. At the first sight, this might look uncomfortable, but as it will be shown, White has no reason to fear! 7.Bxd5 Not only that White improves the position of the light-squared Bishop and that aims to conclude development after Nf3, but White also threatens to take Bc6, to simplify the position with trade and to make double pawns to Black on the Queenside. Bxg1 White deflects the defender of the h2 pawn and hopes to get the initiative after Qh4+. Meanwhile, White will create weaknesses on the Queenside, and that will be more than enough for the clear advantage. 8.Rxg1 Qh4+ 9.g3 Whilst Black loses time to collect unimportant pawns, such as h2, White threatens to take Bc6 with a check, forcing Black to double pawns on the c-file with lack of the pieces to

gain any action. Qxh2 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.Be3 And as it was mentioned, the position is close to an endgame, and Black has an unfixable pawn structure on the Queenside with a7, c7, and c6 weaknesses. White is clearly better with an intention to marginalize Black's Queen after Bf2 and Qf3 when Black will be faced with a threat of Rh1! 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

7.Nxf6+ Qxf6 8.Bxe6 Qxe6 9.f5 White blocks all of Black's actions and goes on finish development with Nf3, Bd2, Qe2 and O-O-O! Of course, the dark-squared Bishop will be activated with Bc3. eyeing another one of Black's weak spots - pawn on e5. 9...Qd6 10.Nf3 White completes development and gets ready for Qe2 followed by Be3/ Bd2 and O-O-O. White has to finish his development as soon as possible because as it turns out that if White plays unambitious chess, Black could claim a certain amount of compensation; due to the open d-file, good outpost d4, and fairly dangerous Bishop on c5. 10...0-0-0 11.Bd2 It is questionable if Black has compensation for the clear pawn-up material advantage. White is going to conclude the development with Qe2 and O-O-O, and afterward, create action on the other side of the board with Bc3 and a g4-g5 pawn storm. 3) Bishop's Opening 2...Nc6: V-Bishop's Opening: 2... Nc6 3.Nc

4...d6 Although Black closes the path for the dark-squared Bishop, this is one of the most commonly played moves by Black who searches for a solid continuation, without complications. This is also a very common approach by players who are unfamiliar with the arising position and have no idea about any theory here. So, better get ready for it and learn the following plans well! This continuation transposes into this line also after 4...Be7 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 . 5.f4 Since Black does not control the dark squares around White's King anymore, and the dark-squared Bishop is locked on the f8 square, White can go for the Vienna set up, aiming to develop the Kingside as soon as possible and gain activity on the semi-opened f-file. 5...Bg4 With this adventurous move, Black develops with tempo with the idea to ruin the pawn structure around White's King after Nd4. White has to be on top of the opening, otherwise, it can cost us badly! 6.Nf3 I think that White has no reason to be scared of the bad pawn structure on the Kingside. However, if you do not want to risk anything, have in mind that White can also go for a more solid 6.Nge2 , followed by O-O and normal development. 6...Nd4 Black continues with the previously mentioned idea and aims to double White's pawns on the f-file. Anyway, if 6...Bxf3 was played instead, White would be clearly better with 7.Qxf3 Nd4 8.Qd1! saving the c2 pawn and with a plan to O-O, followed by Ne2 which would force Black to remove the active Knight from the central d4 square. 7.0-0 As I previously said, White has no reason to be scared of the doubled

pawns, since that would give us plenty of opportunities for activity in the center. 7...Nxf3+ One should have in mind that 7...Bxf3?! would result in a Bishop pair advantage for White after 8.gxf3 . In that position, White's idea might be Ne2, a4 - gaining space control, and Kh1 - putting the King in the safe zone with even the possibility of launching an attack on the Kingside with Rg1 and so on... 8.gxf3 Bh3 9.Rf2 After 9.Rf2 White has no issues. On the other hand, White has a nice initiative with the idea of d4, gaining a central activity, a4 which would give White solid space control, and a possible Kh1 to put the King on a safe spot. It is important to mention, that the engine prefers slightly Black's position, although, in practice, White has a superb 85% in the following position! 2) Sidelines in 2... Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2... Nc6 3.Nc

[21] **5...Na5** This is a very interesting approach by Black, who aims to gain the Bishop pair and to ruin White's pawn structure on the Kingside. 6.a3 White kills two birds with one stone! At the same time, White threatens the Bishop on b4, and makes a safe spot for the light-squared Bishop! 6...Bxc3+ Black is consistent with removing the light-squared Bishop and the doubled pawns on the c-file. Anyway, one should notice that Black would lose their Bishop pair, so Black gains nothing with this exchange! 7.Nxc3 White threatens to escape with the light-squared Bishop to the a2 spot and to keep their Bishop pair. That means that Black is practically forced to take 7... Nxc4. 7...Nxc4 8.dxc4 Disconnected pawns on c4 and e4 should not be taken as White's weaknesses, because after the trade of the light-squared Bishop White gained a new semi-opened file for the Rook, which will be achieved after Qe2, Be3, and O-O-O! Pawn actions and attacking moves aiming at Black's Kingside! 8...d6 9.Qe2 White prepares for the previously mentioned plan of Be3 and O-O-O, and at the same time protects c4 pawn, which could be attacked with 9...Be6. 9...h6 Black simply aims to prevent the possible pin of Bg5. 10.Be3 0-0 11.0-0-0 White castled long, put the Rook on the semi-opened d-file, and now prepares for the pawn storm on the Kingside with f3, g4, h4! 11...b6 In the game between Rhodes, J -Segalla, J ICCF email 2007. Black went for this move, with the idea of Ba6. 12.f3 White is ready for the pawn storm, and it is questionable if Black would be able to defend! 12...Ba6 13.g4 Nd7 14.h4 While Black tried to gain some shred of activity on the Queenside with a Knight maneuver Nd7, followed by Nc5, White will try to open g-file with 14...-- 15.g5! and Black can not escape it! 14...Nc5 15.g5 With an idea to take gxh6 and to put the Rook on the newly opened file, White forces Black to block the Kingside and to make a weakness on h5! 15...h5 As it was mentioned,

Black was forced to block White's pawns on the Kingside, but with this move, the pawn on h5 would be a new target exposed to attacks! 16.f4 White uses the activity of the pieces and bad position of Black's pieces to put Black into trouble, threatening to play Qh5 or to take a free pawn on e5! 16...exf4 17.Bd4 This is a significant move that proves the total dominance of White's pieces! Black can not protect h5 pawn anymore since 17...g6 would lead immediately to a lost position after 18.Nd5 and the forthcoming 18...-- 19.Nf6! 17...Ne6 Black aims to defend the weakened dark-squares around the King by removing the dark squares killer! Sorry, but it is too late for that! 18.Bf6 I am sure that you didn't expect this one to come! White is completely winning after 18 moves. Bf6!! Since Black can not defend the opening of the Kingside anymore, and very soon it's checkmate! 18...gxf6 19.Qxh5 Bb7 20.Rdg1 And Black should now consider resigning due to the threat of gxf6 and the opening of the g or h-file can not be stopped anymore as it could be seen in the game Rhodes, J -Segalla, J ICCF email 2007. 20...Ng7 21.Qh6 f5 22.g6 fxg6 23.Rxg6 Rf7 24.Rhg1 Qf8 25.exf5 Re8 26.f6 Ree7 27.fxe7 Rxe7 28.R1g5 f3 29.Rh5 f2 30.Qh7+ Kf7 31.Rf5+ Ke8 32.Rxf8+ Kxf8 33.Qh8+ Kf7 34.Rxg7+ Ke6 35.Qh6+ Kd7 36.Rxe7+ Kxe7 37.Qe3+ Kf6 38.Qxf2+ Kg6 39.Ne2 Ba6 40.Qf8 Reference Games-Rhodes,J

22 **7...Bxc3** Although this is a very common move in practice, I would say that Black is not happy with the position afterward. White gains the advantage of the Bishop pair and does not care about double pawns on the c-file! 8.Nxc3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 We can already here say that White gained a satisfying position with the Bishop pair, with the idea of Qf3, a4, gaining space control, and the further development ideas of Ba3, Rae1. 9...0-0 Black aims to conclude development as well. If Black decides to hurry up to overtake the advantage of the Bishop pair with 9...Na5 , White would gain a huge initiative after 10. Bb3 Nxb3 11.axb3 O-O 12.f4! aiming to open the f-file, while one should not forget that White has another Rook active on the a-file, eyeing the a7 spot. 10.Qh5 As it was mentioned before, White's double pawns on the c-file can not be considered as a considerable weakness. White has a Bishop pair and a desirable open position to play. With a direct threat of Ba3, White threatens to expose the f7 pawn to the undefendable attack! As a curiosity, I have to mention that playing online I have faced this position at least ten times; it looks like Black, for some reason believes it could be good for them!?

[10.Qf3 Faced with the very uncomfortable threat of Ba3, which attacks the only defender of the f7 spot, Black needs to take care of the dark squares that White fully controls, thanks to the Bishop pair. I would also mention that 10.Qh5 Qf6 11.f4

has been played in the game between Rublevsky - Bezgodov, Cheboksary 2016, where White had a clear advantage and an admirable open position for the Bishop pair - check 7...Nc3 Qd6 Black is forced to defend the a3-f8 diagonal. If 10... Na5? was played instead, White gains a completely winning position after 11.Ba3 Nxc4 12.Bxf8 Nd2 13. Qg3! with Qg7# threat looming! And after 13...Qxf8 14.Rfd1 Black's Knight is trapped on the d2 spot! Of course, after 10...Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Qe3 White is clearly better with the superior minor piece CC StartBracket CC Bishop against Knight CC EndBracket CC and Black needs to think about how to defend the e5 and e6 weaknesses. 11.a4 Not only that, once again White creates space for the dark-squared Bishop who will be developed on the most active a3-f8 diagonal, at the same time White gains space control and gets a safe spot for the light-squared Bishop! Na5 Black tries to defend with the most active move, and hopes to get rid of the White's Bishop pair. Of course, this is kind of a passive move. 11...Qg6 could be played instead, after which White gains a clear advantage 12.Bd5 Bd7 13.a5! with space control and desirable Bishop pair! 12.Ba3 With this very important intermediary move, Black is forced to weaken light squares with 12...c5. That would leave the central light squares in our control! c5 13.Bd5 White gains an eternal Bishop placed on d5, which will be supported with c4! The further plan of White's activation should be Rfe1 and possible Bb2 which would put Black into trouble to defend e5 pawn. One should not forget that Black is currently locked to the defense of the b7 pawn and can not develop yet the light-squared Bishop! 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2... Nc6 3.Nc]

10...Qf6 Black gives an effort to hold the position with 10...Qf6 and at the same time defends the f7 pawn and wishes to play Be6, or to trade the Queens with Qg6. Of course, 10. .. Na5? ends up with the clearly better position for White after 11. Ba3! and Black can not support the f7 square anymore.

[10...Qd6 Black chooses the resilient move and defends the threat of Ba3. If instead, Black tries to improve the defense of the f7 spot with 10...Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.a4 White is clearly better with ideas of Re1 and Qh3, and White's play would be based on the Black's e6 and e5 weaknesses. 11.a4 Quite an important move! Once again, Black needs to struggle to defend the Ba3 threat! At the same time, the last move gives White the possibility to put the Bishop back on a2 in case of 11...Na5. Qg6 Black hopes to save the position in the endgame, but I need to emphasize that in a position with the Bishop pair on the board, White prefers exchanges! All the advantages of the 11.a4 move are seen within the Black's possible answer of 11...Na5 , and after an intermediary move of 12. Ba3 c5 White has a safe spot for the light-squared Bishop and has a clearly better position after 13.Ba2 with ideas of Rae1, and possible

center break with d4 or f4! 12.Qxg6 hxg6 13.f4 Despite the exchange of the Queens, White still looks for a way to open the position and give fresh air to the Bishop pair. With a direct threat of Bd5, Black will be forced to capture exf4 and to put White's Rook from f1 on the semi-opened f-file from where it will control the f7 weakness. After possible Ba3 and Raf1, it is unclear how Black can resist here. 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

11.f4 We do not give a break to our opponents! With 11.f4, White aims to open the f-file and improve an attack on the weakened f7 pawn. Black's Queen is pinned, and Black needs to think about defense!

11...Be6 Black intends to exchange light-squared Bishops and to take off White's Bishop pair advantage.

12.fxe5 With the move 11...Be6 Black finally activates the light-squared Bishop. Nevertheless, the possible exchange on e6 would be more beneficial for White if Black is forced to retake with a pawn after 12.Bxe6 fxe6 . The situation is different now, and White wants to enter a better endgame with the e6 weakness to attack. 12...Qxe5 Black is practically forced to search for the draw possibility in an endgame, but as it was previously mentioned, we will have new weaknesses to attack! 13.Qxe5 Nxe5 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Re1 After a forced exchange, White gained a clear advantage in the game Rublevsky, S - Bezgodov, A Cheboksary 2016, with an open e-file for the Rook, and the idea of c4, followed by Bb2, which forces Black to move the Knight away and to expose the e6 weakness to an attack. Very pleasant type of endgame where apart from the better Bishop turned out that weakness on e6 and a little bit more active Rook give White a lot to hope for! 15...Rf5 16.Re4 Raf8 17.Be3 Kf7 18.Re1 Nc6 19.Bf4 Rc8 20.Bg3 Rf6 21.Rc4 Ke8 22.Rb1 Na5 23.Rxc7 Rxc7 24.Bxc7 b6 25.Be5 Rf7 26.c4 Nc6 27.Bc3 e5 28.Re1 Re7 29.Re4 Kd7 30.Kf2 Kd6 31.Ke2 Rf7 32.Bb2 a6 33.a4 Rb7 34.Rh4 g6 35.Bc3 Ke6 36.g4 Nd4+ 37.Bxd4 exd4 38.g5 Kf5 39.Rxd4 Kxg5 40.Rd6 h5 41.a5 bxa5 42.Rxa6 Rb1 43.c5 Rh1 44.c6 Rxh2+ 45.Kd1 Rf2 46.c7 Rf8 47.Rxa5+ Kg4 48.Rc5 Rc8 49.Ke2 Kg3 50.d4 h4 51.Kf1 Rf8+ 52.Kg1 Rc8 53.d5 h3 54.Rc3+ Reference Games-Rublevsky,S

7...Nxc3 Black gets rid of the attacked Knight buying a tempo for the next development move. Of course, if Black still aims to create doubled pawns for White on the c-file, they need to say goodbye to the Bishop pair! 8.Nxc3 0-0 9.Qh5 White keeps putting pressure on the weakened f7 spot and aims to finish development with Be3, which could be followed with uncomfortable Knight maneuver Ne4-Ng5! It needs to be mentioned that engines prefer 9. Ne4 instead of 9.Qh5!?, but if you are looking for an interesting position with initiative, I would recommend 9.Qh5, which showed to be better in practical play. Of course, after 9.Ne4 Na5 10.a3 Nxc4 11.axb4 Nd6 12.Ng3 White

can be satisfied with the position and has an idea to push f4! 9...Na5 With this very interesting move, Black sacrifices a pawn willing to gain the Bishop pair and an open position. 10.Qxe5 Of course, White accepts the gift and aims to escape from the attack with Bd5, followed by developing moves, such as Bg5, which comes with a tempo! 10...Nxc4 11.dxc4 Re8 12.Qg3 White's Queen is in a safe spot on g3, and White threatens to play a3, Bg5 - tempo development move, followed by Rad1 which would put Black's Queen into an uncomfortable situation without space to escape from the attack. 12...c6 This is practically the only move that gives Black chances for the intense fight. If 12...Bf5?! was played instead, White would be clearly better after 13.Bg5! followed by Rad1. 13.a3 After forcing Black to move the dark-squared Bishop away, White aims to finish development with Bf4 or Bg5, which will be finalized with Rad1. Since Black has some sort of minuscule compensation thanks to the Bishop pair, it is correct to say that with a pawn up, White is slightly better. 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

[23] **9...f6** Black tries to support the e5 pawn and to block the f-file for White's Rook, but White keeps opening the position. 10.fxe5 Although you may question yourself why do we keep opening the position since Black has a Bishop pair and may benefit out of it, the answer is found in the fact that Black can not save the Bishop pair after the forthcoming 11.Nxd5! 10...Nxe5 10...fxe5 will not be even discussed since that would lead to at least a small advantage for White after 11.Nxd5 , where White would have control of the opened f-file resulting in issues for Black to castle as well as Black, would have to suffer due to isolated pawn on e5. 11.Nxd5 White takes the Bishop pair and makes the Bishop on b4 look foolish. 11...Qxd5 12.c3 [12.d4 This is my improvement over the game Adhiban - Giri Wijk Aan Zee 2017! White takes control of the center and forces Black to withdraw with the Knight, followed by hyper solid c3 and Nf4. 0-0-0 Black uses the chance to buy more time for development before the final step back from the center. White's Queen on d1 is pinned, and the threat of dxe5 is not real yet. 13.c3 As it was mentioned previously, Black's Bishop on b4 threatens nothing, and White aims to devalue it. Of course, at the same time, the pawn on d4 gets the endorsement. Bc5 Once again, Black chooses to use the pin. If 13...Bd6 was played instead, White would be slightly better after 14.Bf4 and the real threat of dxe5, with the idea to continue with Qc2 which would connect the Rooks. 14.Nf4 After an important tempo move, Black needs to go back with the Queen. White clears the center for future actions and prepares for to continue development. Qd7 15.Qc2 We finally got rid of the pin, and it is

obvious that Black needs to keep the Bishop on the a7-g1 diagonal in order to keep the piece. Bb6 16.Kh1 Not only that White puts the King in a safe spot away from the pin and threatens to capture Black's Knight, but White also proves that the Bishop on b6 is isolated with the idea of a4, followed by a5. With an untouchable Kingside, White is ready to open up the Queenside where the Black King is as a target! 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3. Nc]

12...Bd6 13.Nf4 Qf7 14.d4 0-0-0 15.Qa4 a6 16.Qb3 Qxb3 17.axb3 Ng6 18.Nxg6 hxg6 19.Bf4 Bxf4 20.Rxf4 Rde8 21.h3 g5 22.Rf5 Re2 23.Rf2 Rhe8 24.Raf1 Kd7 25.Rxe2 Rxe2 26.Rf2 Re1+ 27.Rf1 Re2 28.Rf2 Re1+ 29.Rf1 Rxf1+ 30.Kxf1 Ke6 31.Ke2 Kf5 32.Kf3 a5 33.c4 b6 34.Ke3 Ke6

Reference Games-Adhiban,B

10.f5 Black's light-squared Bishop is confined now, and White threatens to go forward with f6 putting the Black's King in an uncomfortable position. There is also a threat of Nd5 Qd5 followed by Ng3 with a promising Kingside attack. All things considered, the last move in practice, has given Black lots of problems in the past, and White has very nice attacking chances afterward. 10...f6 Black prevents White's idea of f6 and creates a shelter for the light-squared Bishop that hopes to find salvation with Bf7. Anyway, White does not care anymore about the Bishop pair, since the position is blocked and Black has no good way to activate Bishops!

[10...Bxc3 11.bxc3 f6 12.Ng3 White keeps the same idea of Qg4, but also can furtherly improve the center with a tempo after c4, and one should not forget that the dark-squared Bishop gets a more active a3-f8 diagonal after Ba3.

A) 12...Re8 With this silent move, Black has an idea to go for possible e4 which would improve the position of the light-squared Bishop on d5. However, White prevents the possible break in the center! 13.c4 With this important intermediate move, Black is forced to step back, and we reach the desirable outpost on e4 for the Knight! Another common possibility is 13.Qg4 , where White gets almost the same type of game. Bf7 14.Be3 Of course, an outpost on d4 is clearly in possession of White, and Black can not stop us from going for Ne4. For that reason, White does not need to hurry with Ne4, but can keep developing and prepares for the action on the Kingside. Kh8 Since White stopped all of Black's threats, Black goes for the resilient move of 14...Kh8 hoping to improve the position of the King and prevents pins after the forthcoming Qg4. 15.Ne4 Once again White puts Black into a difficult spot to find a move here. Still, we are yet to declare our intentions, whether we are going to initiate action on the Kingside or on the Queenside. Black needs to stop and guess if White aims to play Rb1, Nc5, or Qg4. b6 Black obviously prepares for Qd7 and prevents a possible Nc5.

16.Qg4 Finally, White declares that they are going for a mating attack! To stop all of the possible Black threats, such as Nd4, White aims to slowly toggle the heavy pieces on the Kingside with Rf2, Raf1, and afterward to continue attacking with g4! The very same plan as shown in the game between Mondry, M - Tauscher, D Remote email 2012, which continued with 16...Qd7 17. Rf2 Bg8 18.Raf1 Rf8 19.Qh4 with a dynamite attack on the Black's King. Qd7 17.Rf2 Bg8 18.Raf1 Rf8 19.Qh4 Rf7 20.Rd2 Nd4 21.Qg4 c5 22.c3 Nc6 23.Qf3 Rd8 24.g4 h6 25.Qg2 Bh7 26.Ng3 Qb7 27.h4 Rfd7 28.Rfd1 Reference Games-Mondry,M;

B) 12...Qd7 Interesting enough, this move has been the most popular in this position in the past. Black establishes a line of communication between the Rooks with a possible idea of Ne7, which piles up the pressure on the f5 pawn and abandons the shelter on c6 for the light-squared Bishop. Also, one should not forget that Qd7 could sometimes, make X-rays on Qg4 once we try to launch the attack on the Kingside. 13.Be3 Even though in the Course I suggested 13.Rb1!? as my novelty, I was very excited and happy when I saw this game for the first time a long time ago. It clearly shows us an idea of what are we supposed to do in similar positions. With the last move, White threatens nothing, but completes his development and slowly but surely is getting ready for his final action on the Kingside! In some positions, dark-squared Bishop might go on a3, although having it placed on e3, White seems solid too. *(13.Rb1* This is a very interesting novelty of mine which forces Black to defend on the Queenside, White aims to afterward to gain full control of the game with c4, followed by Ne4 and a possible Qg4. Do not forget, in the case of 13...Ne7 CC StartBracket CC where Black defends b7 by Bd5 and which gives Black a nice retreating square on c6 for the Bishop after any c4 CC EndBracket CC, White could also include the Rook into the attack on the Kingside with a marvelous maneuver of 14.Rb4 14...-- 15.Rh4! Of course, in this position after 13...Ne7 , White has an alternative such as 13.c4 Bf7 14.Be3 Rad8 15.Ne4 with great initiative and the idea of g4, h4, followed by g5. 13.Be3 which was played by Karjakin Sergey against Kosteniuk Alexandra in Wijk Aan Zee 2005, when after 13...b6 14. c4 Bf7 15.Ne4 White claims a massive action after Ba3 and g4, followed by g5. *b6 14.c4* Black was forced to defend the pawn with 13...b6 and White strikes back in the center and forces Black to retreat with the Bishop. This way, the Knight from g3 gets a nice outpost after the upcoming 14...-- 15.Ne4! *Bf7 15.Ne4* With an idea to conclude the development with Be3, and forthcoming g4-g5, White has a very promising attack on the Kingside! Keep in mind, to support

the attack on the Kingside better, in such positions, White usually goes for an idea with Rf2 CC StartBracket CC to stop checks on d4, prevent Nd4 with pressure on c2, and finally to go on g2 to launch g5 better CC EndBracket CC. 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc) 13...Ne7 The Ne7 retreat is something that I like and fear from Black players! It gives better protection to the b7 pawn CC StartBracket CC in case White goes with Rb1 CC EndBracket CC, pressures the f5 pawn in some circumstances, but the most important idea behind it, it gives either Bc6 or b6 followed by Bb7 to the Black's bishop! Why does Black need that Bishop on this diagonal? In most positions, after c4 happens LightSquared Bishop goes on f7 or g8 and along with not stoping any Ne4 ideas by Black, it does not have particularly strong defensive Kingside resources either! So, having the Bishop on an a8-h1 diagonal helps Black to execute Ne4 whenever they want! 14.c4 The last move would be way more efficient if there was no Ne7 , but this still gives White decent central advantage and space control. Bc6 Do not forget, this Bishop belongs on the a8-h1 diagonal, so Black can always eliminate Ne4 if needed! 15.Qg4 Quite a typical move in similar positions. It allows White better control of the e4 square CC StartBracket CC Ne4 becomes posssible since it will be protected by Queen CC EndBracket CC, gives White possible attack with ideas such as Bh6 or Nh5, opens up back rank for the more flexibile rook movement and finally gives White better control of the Kingside with a possibility to set it on the right place and support Kingside pawn storm! Kh8 Defensive precaution measures aimed against Nh5 and Bh6. Also, it opens up Rg8 followed by g6 in some positions, as long as Queen stands on g4. 16.Rae1 Karjakin has just completed his development and the first part of the game came to an end! Follow carefully how Karjakin moved his forces and the way he built up his attack on the Kingside - this is why I took this game as a model one! b6 Quite a logical prophylactic move. It gives the Black possibility, to put its Bishop back to b7, prevents Ne4-Nc5-Ne6 ideas by White CC StartBracket CC if Black wants to avoid taking on e4 and keep his light-squared Bishop at all costs CC EndBracket CC and in some positions, it avoids having pawn on a7 being under the attack. 17.Re2 Another important move in White's strategy! White gives this rook a very valuable role and it might go to g2 after Ng3 goes to either e4 and after Qh4-g4-Rg2 it will support Kingside attack coped with g5 eventually! Rf7 A pretty logical defensive move that does not look that bad, although, it is hard to see any other particularly special moves for Black but defensive and passive ones. 18.Qh5 Getting tempo for Ne4 and g4 - Kingside attack! Nc8

Another typical move by Black. This Knight goes towards d6 where it would certainly have better control of both f5 pawn and e4 central square. 19.c5 White temporarily prevents Nd6, but more importantly echaging his big weakness - doubled pawns! Rf8 20.Ne4 Finally move that presents one of the key attacking resources by White! All of a sudden the whole strategy coped with the attack on the Kingside becomes realistic and g4-Rg2 followed by g5 is about to happen! Qf7 21.Qh4 White surely does not want to exchange the Queens! We would dry out our attacking sources otherwise! Qxa2 22.g4 Now, we can clearly see the benefits of strong Rook on e2! Along with g4-Rg2 and g5 idea, it also protects the c2 pawn and minimizes Black counter chances! Ne7 23.g5 fxg5 24.Nxg5 Qg8 25.Ref2 Threatening break with f6 Bd7 26.Nxh7 Removes one of the main defenders of the previously safe King on h8 and gets the pawn back. Looks like White gets unstoppable initiative after this move! Qxh7 27.Qxe7 Bxf5 28.Qg5 g6 29.h4 Rae8 30.d4 In an already winning position, Karjakin failed to find the fastest and easiest way to open the Black's King and weaken Bf5. Although, opposite-colored Bishops with the rooks and Queen on the board usually favor one side! This time White had hardly stoppable initiative! bxc5 31.dxe5 Rf7 32.h5 Re6 33.Bxc5 Qg7 34.Rh2 Qh7 35.Qd8+ This is a remarkable example of White's plans in a similar type of positions, the one that I like a lot and find very typical. I believe learning plans and ideas from this game, could help you a lot in better understanding of White's concepts and can bring you lots of joy and nice wins. Good luck! Model Games-Karjakin,S;

C) 12...Ne7 Black blocks the a3-f8 diagonal and aims to tuck the light-squared Bishop into safety on the most active diagonal after b6-Bb7. 13.Qg4 Certainly, White does not want to go here for the fruitless 13. c4 , which would force Black to do exactly what he wanted, to keep the Bishop safe on the longest a8-h1 diagonal. Additionally, Black would have b5 possibilities to ruin White's center afterward. For that reason, White follows up with ideas of Nh5 or Bh6 on the Kingside. I would like to emphasize that White has different possibilities here. There are very nice ideas of the Rb1-Rb4 maneuver when White toggles the Rook onto Kingside with Rh4 and Qh5. The computer idea would be 12.a4 -followed by a5 which blocks b6 for which Black went after 12... Ne7 . According to your personal chess style, you can choose any of these plans and that proves that White's position is full of possibilities and creative motives. b6 14.Bh6 White forces Black to defend the weakened g7 square and swings the pieces on the Kingside! Black will be forced to defend, but White should not be nervous from sacrifices afterward but should improve the position of

all the pieces, including Rooks in the game. Rf7 15.Nh5 This is quite a forced and tempting move that goes along well with Qg4 and Bh6. Apart from that move, other good possibilities could also be quite typical 15.Rae1 followed by Re3 or 15.Rf2 defends the c2 pawn and supports g4 afterward in the case of Rg2 followed by g4-g5. This is quite a forced and tempting move that goes along well with Qg4 and Bh6. Apart from that move, other good possibilities could also be quite typical 15.Rae1 followed by Re3 or 15.Rf2 defends the c2 pawn and supports g4 afterward in the case of Rg2 followed by g4-g5. The continuation of the line and more detailed analysis can be found here! Qf8 16.Rae1 Not only that White includes the last piece into the game but has a plan to continue with an attack after Rf2, Re3, and possible Rg3 or Rh3. I would say that in practice, this is position is hard to be held by Black. Kh8 17.Bc1 To someone, it might look unlogical that White puts the Bishop back on the starting square, but the fact is that dark-squared Bishop gains a new diagonal after possible Ba3. White has easy play and clear initiative with a plan of Rf2, Re3, and Rh3, as well as an idea to centralize the Knight after Ng3 and Ne4 with the opening of the h-file! 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3. Nc;

D) 12...b5 This is a fascinating attempt by Black to stop White to stabilize the center after c4. However, White will take all the assets out of this very soon! For example, the c5 square becomes weak now, as well as the a6-b5 structure becomes quite exposed to certain a4 pawn breaks on the Queenside. 13.Qg4 As seen before, White goes for the harassment of Black's King threatening to compromise the g7 spot with Nh5 or Bh6! Kh8 14.a4 With 13... Kh8 Black escapes the pin. Although, White stretches the game on both Queenside and Kingside. Black is consequently forced to defend both, but it is questionable how! White tries to take advantage of the exposed pawns on the Queenside, as well as to remove the pawn from a2, where it was under constant attack and pressure by Bd5. a6 15.Ba3 White has never intended to open the a-file but only to put pressure on the exposed b5 pawn. After the developing move of Ba3, which comes with a tempo, White goes back to activities on the Kingside, but with one huge difference - Black has no longer options for any strike back on the Queenside or in the center! Rg8 16.Rae1 White decisively swings the heavy pieces on the Kingside and prepares for the very uncomfortable mating attack with Ne4, Re3, Qh4, followed by Rh3! 2) Sidelines in 2... Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2... Nc6 3.Nc;

E) 12...Qe7 Black simply connects the Rooks and stops White from activating the dark-squared Bishop with Ba3, at the same time

cunningly stops the threat of Qc5 which comes with a check and an attack on the c3 pawn! 13.c4 White kills two birds with one stone! Black does not have a threat of Qc5 anymore and at the same time needs to move the Bishop far away from the center whilst White gains an outpost on e4! Bf7 14.Be3 As I emphasized many times throughout the course, the threat is sometimes better than the execution. An outpost on e4 is clearly in possession of White, and Black can not stop us from going for Ne4, so we do not hurry to gain it but we keep developing actively! Rfd8 15.Qf3 *(15.Qg4* After 14... Rfd8 Black had an idea to break the center with 15...e4. Of course, we are not allowing this, and we toggle the Queen to the Kingside with ideas of Ne4, Rae1, and previously mentioned possibility of Bh6, Re3, Rg3, or Rh3 with a devastating mating attack! I would like to mention that 15.Qg4 is an improvement and reaches an interesting position that offers more practical play, compared to 15.Qf3 , which was played between Rublevsky, S and Wegerle, J in Germany in 2017, where White claimed 'only' small advantage.*)* 15...Rab8 16.Rab1 Be8 17.Rfe1 b6 18.Qg4 Qf7 19.Bf2 a5 20.Ne4 Kh8 21.Re3 Qh5 22.Qxh5 Bxh5 23.h3 h6 24.g4 Be8 25.h4 Ne7 26.Rf1 Bc6 27.Be1 Bxe4 28.Rxe4 Nc8 29.g5 Nd6 30.Rg4 h5 31.Rg2 Rf8 32.Kh2 Rbe8 33.c5 bxc5 34.Bxa5 Ra8 35.Bxc7 Nb5 36.Bb6 Rxa2 37.c4 Rxg2+ 38.Kxg2 Nd4 39.Bxc5 Rd8 40.gxf6 gxf6 41.Be7 Rg8+ 42.Kh3 Kg7 43.Rg1+ Reference Games-Rublevsky,S]

11.Ng3 White relocates all the play to the Kingside, and not only that we want to reach an outpost on e4 with Nce4, but the idea is to continue with Qg4 and regular development of Be3, which would put pressure on the Black's abandoned King.

11...Bf7 This is the most commonly played move by Black in this position. Black simply intends to keep the Bishop pair as long as possible and to try to make an advantage out of it.

[11...Ne7 With an idea to complete the maneuver of Nc8-Nd6 and to control the e4 square and to escape with the Bc6, Black intends to stop White's action, but that is not easy as it sounds! 12.Nce4 White keeps the follow-up with the previously mentioned plan of Qg4, Be3 and can think about further pressure on Black's King with Nh5! Nc8 13.Qg4 With two sensitive squares g7 and f6, and a badly positioned King, Black faces a violent threat of Nh5, followed by Nef6! Kh8 14.Be3 White does not need to hurry with the Nh5. As someone said, 'the threat is sometimes stronger than the execution'. Black has to think about all the White's threats and ideas, and can not improve the position of the King. Be7 Since the dark-squared Bishop did nothing on the b4 square, Black hopes that with 14...Be7, the Bishop can join the defense and might protect the f6 spot. 15.Nh5 White decides that the time for brute force has come!

Rf7 16.Rf3 As it could be seen in the game Kryakvin, D - Gutov, A Chennai 2010, White gained a huge initiative after 16.Rf3 intending to play Rh3, and Rf1 afterward, while e4 Knight is protected by Qg4. It is clear that White claims a one-sided advantage and dictates the pace. White's plan could be, Rh3 followed by Rf1 with an unstoppable attack! Bxe4 17.Qxe4 c6 18.Rh3 Bf8 19.Qg4 Ne7 20.Ng3 h6 21.Ne4 Ng8 22.Kh1 Rc7 23.Qf3 c5 24.b3 b5 25.g4 c4 26.dxc4 bxc4 27.Rd1 Qe8 28.g5 fxg5 29.Bxg5 cxb3 30.cxb3 Rac8 31.Rg1 Rf7 32.Qg2 Be7 33.f6 Reference Games-Kryakvin,D]

12.Nce4 As it is well-known, Bishop pair is not valuable in closed or semi-closed positions, such as this one. With 12.Nce4! not only that White gained an outpost on e4 for the time being, but also marginalized Black's dark-squared Bishop. As in previous similar positions, White has an idea to go for the mating attack with Qg4, Nh5, Rf3, followed up Rg3 or Rh3. 12...Ba5 Black attempts to activate dark-squared Bishop with Bb6. Of course, Black could also play a defensive 12...Be7 , and after 13.Qg4 Kh8 14.Be3 White keeps an idea of Nh5, Rad1, and possible Rf2 which would give support to the c2 pawn if needed.

[12...Kh8 With this prophylactic move Black buys a tempo and ignores the forthcoming pin after Qg4, and leaves some space for Rg8 which will be useful in defense of the sensitive g7 square. 13.Be3 In the game Heilala, T - Costa, F ICCF email 2008, White decided to conclude development before the mating attack on the Kingside commences. Once again, it is Black's turn to decide how to improve his pieces and how to prevent White's ideas. Re8 Black creates space for the dark-squared Bishop, which will turn into a defending piece from now on. 14.Qg4 White starts with pressure on the g7 spot threatening to play the uncomfortable Nh5. Bf8 15.Rad1 It is clear that Black can not further improve the defense on the Kingside. In that manner, White does not hurry with particular operations but puts all the pieces in active positions, not leaving Black any opportunity to strike back with a counter-attack. a5 The only side where Black can accomplish to play is the Queenside, so with 15...a5 they prepare for a possible Nb4, or a4, followed by a3. 16.Nh5 White starts the realization of the previously mentioned plan of Nh5, followed by Rf3, and again leaves Black to play Nb4 or Nd4, which will be useful for White since in that case, c3 will come with a tempo, and White anyway intends to play it before Rf3! Nb4 Black tries to catch the last straw of salvation and hopes to gain any counter-attack on the Queenside. 17.c3 Not only White is not scared to lose a pawn on d3, but White keeps fingers crossed to face this scenario since after 17...Nxd3 18.Rf3 White is clearly better with a threat of Rg3, and it is questionable how will Black defends the Kingside. Nd5 18.Bc1 White has time to take a step back and to prevent all the Black's threats since Black can not defend the

maneuver of Rf3, followed by Rg3 or Rh3. a4 19.a3 Once again, White restrains all of Black's activities and gets ready for an attack! b5 20.Rf3 And White is clearly better thanks to the raging mating attack, which comes after Rh3, Qh4, and an idea of Ng7. All of Black's actions were on the Queenside far away from the Kingside action, and Black is going to be forced to capture Bxh5, which would leave him with irrecoverable weaknesses on the light squares around the King. c5 21.Rh3 c4 22.Qh4 Bg8 23.Qg4 Qb6+ 24.Kh1 Rad8 25.Rg3 Re7 26.Bh6 Rdd7 27.h3 cxd3 28.Rdxd3 Qc6 29.Kh2 Rc7 30.Rd1 Ra7 31.Kh1 Reference Games-Heilala,T]

13.Qg4 Black faces lots of troubles due to massive threats of Nh5 followed by Nf6, or Bh6. It is obvious that Black would need to escape the pin immediately if he wants to resist. 13...Bb6+ 14.Kh1 Kh8 15.Nh5 Black temporarily escaped the pin, but the King is still exposed to an attack, as well as the weakened g7 pawn. White aims to go for Rf3, followed by Rg3 or Rh3 with Qh5 and Black would face plenty of issues trying to defend the h7 or g7 square. 15...Bxh5 Practically the only way for Black to save the King is to give up on the Bishop pair and to let White conquer the light squares. 16.Qxh5 With eternal Knight on e4 and a mating attack on the Kingside which will be accomplished after Rf3, followed by Rh4, White is at least slightly better. The game between Fernandez Garcia, J - Valles Moreno, I, Collado Villalba 2004, continued with 16...Qd4 17.a4 Rad8 18.Rb1 with a slight advantage for White, but I would recommend 18.g4! to be played instead, and White can continue attacking with the idea of g5 taking full control of the light squares around Black's King. 16...Qd4 17.a3 Rad8 18.Rb1 Qd5 19.Bd2 Nd4 20.c4 Qc6 21.b4 a6 22.Rbe1 Qe8 23.Qd1 Ba7 24.c5 Qd7 25.Re3 Nxf5 26.Rh3 g6 27.g4 b6 28.gxf5 gxf5 29.c6 Reference Games-Fernandez Garcia,J

[24] **10.c4** White is ready to crush Black's center after c5 and to create weaknesses on the dark squares, which will be under the control of our Bishop on c1! 10...b6 Black aims to prevent the idea of c5, and creates some space for the light-squared Bishop and possible Knights maneuvers. However, you should not hurry to concretize the idea of c5. For example after 10...a5 White can go for 11.h3 stopping Black from developing the light-squared Bishop on the most active g4 spot, and after 11...b6 White is slightly better with 12.Bb2 and the idea of Nh2, followed by f4!

11.Qe2 White still waits to declare whether the dark-squared Bishop will be developed on the Kingside with Bg5 or it will be developed on the Queenside with Bb2 and the previously mentioned idea of h3-Nh2-f4. For now, White develops the Queen and prepares to connect the Rooks, letting Black decide how to continue. 11...Nd7 Black apparently wishes to continue with f5, opening the Kingside in

their own favor. However, this is the time to strike back on the dark squares! If Black decides to play something more passive, such as 11...a5 , White can continue with an idea of f4, after 12.Nd2! 12.Bg5 With this tempo development move, White forces Black to react and puts the f5 plan aside for the moment! 12...f6 Black tries to keep the idea of f5, aiming to kick out the Bishop from g5. If 12...Qe8 was played instead, White would gain plenty of counterattacking chances with 13.b4 White has a slight advantage and future plans of pressuring the weakened a7 pawn. 13.Be3 After the last move White shows that they have no fear of 13...f5. Another possibility could be 13.Bd2 , which supports b4 CC StartBracket CC aimed against a5 CC EndBracket CC, which could give a potentially lethal Queenside action followed by doubling the Rooks on the a-file, pressure on the a7 pawn as well as possibilities on the Kingside with f4. 13...Re8 Black's reaction might depend on the personal chess style of the opponent you face. Of course Black could go for 13...f5 as it could be seen in the game Draskovic, M-Milutinovic I, Yugoslavia 1980, when after 14. exf5 Rxf5 White strikes back on the dark squares with 15.Bg5! threatening to play Qe4! and after 15...Rxg5 16.Nxg5 Qxg5 17.Qf3 gives difficulties to Black forcing him to play 17...Rb8 and to leave the a7 pawn unprotected. After 18. Rxa7 , White is clearly better with the next pawn coming down- c7 . Instead in the game Edwards, K - Hux, R corr 1996, Black chose to play 13...Nc5 and White gained a slightly better position after 14.Nh4 Ne6 15.g3 with an idea of f4. After 15...Bd7 16.f4 Nd4 17.Bxd4 exd4 White gains initiative with 18.g4! aiming to conquer the light squares after f5!

[13...Nc5 14.Nh4 Ne6 15.g3 Bd7 16.f4 Nd4 17.Bxd4 exd4 18.g4 Qe7 19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.gxf5 a5 21.Rf3 Kh8 22.Rh3 h6 23.Qf2 c5 24.Qh4 Rae8 25.Kf2 Rf7 26.Rg1 Qf8 27.Rg6 Ree7 28.Rhg3 Ra7 29.Kg2 Rae7 30.Qh5 Ra7 31.h3 Rae7 32.Kh2 Kh7 33.Rg2 Kh8 34.Rg1 Kh7 35.R6g2 Kh8 36.Rg4 Qb8 37.Rh4 Qf8 38.Qg6 Re8 39.Rh5 Ree7 40.Rg4 Rb7 41.Rgh4 Rbe7 42.Kg1 Ra7 43.Kf2 Rab7 44.Ke2 Ra7 45.Kd1 Rab7 46.Kd2 Ra7 47.Kc1 Rab7 48.Kd1 Ra7 Reference Games-Edwards,J]

14.Nd2 Since Black chose to go for a solid position and a possible maneuvers of Nf8-Ng6, White can react in the center aiming to play f5 afterward, which would put Black into chains on the back rank.

14...Nf8 Black tries to gain some fresh air for the pieces with the idea to continue with Ng6, Be6, however, White can not be stopped from proceeding with the prepared plan of f4! 15.f4 Due to White's idea of f5, Rf3, followed by Rg3 and possible Qg4, Black is practically forced to continue with 15...exf4.

15...exf4 16.Rxf4 With the activation of the Rook on the semi-open f-file, White is slightly better and prepared

to swing the other pieces to the Kingside with the forthcoming Nf1-Ng3, and Raf1. Black's pawn structure is unnatural, since all of the pawns are positioned on dark squares from where they can be easily exposed to attacks. In the game between Wibe, T-Kvamme, K Norway 1978, White gained a clear advantage and huge initiative after 16...Bd7 17.Nf1 Ng6 18.Rf2 a5 19.Ng3 with the same idea of Raf1 and Nh5 which would force Black to think about possible sacrifices of Rxf6 or Nxf6. One should not forget that according to Capablanca's rule CC StartBracket CC where the pawns are placed on the color of the opposite side Bishop CC EndBracket CC , both Bishops are quite limited CC StartBracket CC Be3 & Bc8 CC EndBracket CC , more so, White will organize a Kingside assault and strike on f6 and g7 pawns and weaken Kg8, Black does not stand a chance! 16...Bd7 17.Nf1 Ng6 18.Rf2 a5 19.Ng3 Qc8 20.h3 Qd8 21.Bd4 Ne5 22.Nh5 Qe7 23.g4 Rf8 24.Nf4 Rae8 25.Nd5 Qd8 26.Raf1 Be6 27.Ne3 Bc8 28.Rg2 Bd7 29.Qe1 Bc8 30.Qg3 h6 31.Bc3 g5 32.Rgf2 Kg7 33.Nd5 Re6 34.d4 Ng6 35.e5 c6 36.Nxf6 Nf4 37.h4 dxe5 38.dxe5 Ng6 39.hxg5 hxg5 40.Rf5 Reference Games-Wibe,T

25 **5...Bb4** A very interesting attempt by Black. Black's idea is simple, he aims to develop the Bishop, pin the Nc3, prepare castling, and more so fight for the central d5 square with the final idea to push d5 especially when Bb3 is about to fall thanks to Nxb3! 6.Nf3 This is absolutely the best response. White strikes back in the center by attacking e5 and develops the Knight with an idea to castle and finish development as soon as possible. One should notice that with this move White gains an important development tempo. 6...Nxb3 Black reduces material and trades his Knight for the strong light-squared Bishop. This way, Black has managed to remove one of the most important pieces for White, which was eyeing the most vulnerable square in Black's position - f7. However, White will gain an open a-file for the Rook, which would give White many opportunities for the initiative. 7.axb3 Certainly, we don't want to go here for 7.f4 which might look logical to you as a kind of transposition to some hypermodern Vienna gambit. Black is simply too active and 7.f4 would be dangerous for us at the moment. For that reason, White continues with normal development, threatening to take Black's pawn on e5 and aims to castle as soon as possible. In fact, with the last move, White forces Black to go with the natural d6, but as the analysis will show, it might leave the Bishop on b4 'lost'! To someone watching from the outside, it may look like Black has ruined White's pawn structure by creating doubled pawns, but one should not forget that White gained an open a-file for the Rook, which pressures the a7 square, and with the possible idea of a Rook lift with

Ra4 or Ra5, Black could get into troubles with weaknesses in the center. 7...0-0 If Black plays 7...d5 the position would transpose to 5...Nxb3 6.axb3 d5 7.Nf3 Bb4 8.O-O.

[7...d6 Black chooses the more cautious plan of development and supports the hanging e5 pawn. One should not forget that 7...d5 transposes to the line 6...d5 7.Nf3 Bb4 8.O-O. 8.0-0 White has a simple idea to swing the pieces on the Kingside, preparing for central action. The plan is to continue with Ne2-Ng3, h3, and possible c3-d4! 0-0 This is the most natural follow-up by Black who aims to conclude the development. 9.Ne2 Not only that we follow the previously mentioned plan of Ng3 and h3, but White also renders Black's dark-squared Bishop useless and out of play on the b4 square. Black will hardly find a plan to use the Bishop on b4, and White can consider also blocking it once and for all after c3, Re1, d4! It is worth mentioning that White can also choose to go for the more calm line with 9.Bg5 c6 10.d4 h6 11.Bh4 Re8 entering a slightly better endgame after 12.dxe5 dxe5 13. Qxd8 Rxd8 14.Rfe1 when Black will face difficulties to defend the e5 pawn and against the ruining of the pawn structure on the Kingside after Bxf6. h6 Black prevents the possible pin of Bg5 although that was not the main plan by White. Many times I faced 9...a5 here, but after 10.c3 Bc5 White can continue with the 11. Ng3 plan, followed by h3, d4, Re1 with a slight advantage. 10.Ng3 White is ready to take advantage of the meaningless position of Black's dark-squared Bishop, aiming to continue with the idea of h3, c3, Re1, leading to a central action with d4! The arising position resembles a lot of Ruy Lopez games, where we lack the light-squared Bishop but the opponent has a lot of problems with the Bishop on b4 flying 'in the middle of nowhere'. 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

8.0-0 d5 One more time Black reacts actively in the center, playing 8...d5 instead of resilient 8...d6 which would transpose to 5...Nxb3 6.axb3 Bb4 7.Nf3 d6. Black aims to follow the well-known rule: 'Attack is the best defense'. 9.Bg5 The development has been completed by White. The Bg5 indirectly defends a pawn on e4 and by pinning the Knight on f6, White forces Black to react. This part of the game could be decisive for the remainder of the game and it could lead to a very interesting position, full of tactical but also positional challenges. You should not hurry to take the pawn with 9.Nxe5?! because that would lead to an equal position after 9...Re8 and Black takes the pawn back, but also ruins White's center. 9...Bxc3 As it was mentioned before, Black has to react after Bg5 due to the obvious threat of Nxd5 which could create serious weaknesses in Black's position. This is a logical response by Black, 'Kill the killer' and reduce the pressure in the center! 10.bxc3 dxe4 Black continues reducing the material on the board, cleaning up

the situation in the center, and threatens to win a pawn after 11. dxe4 Qxd1 12.Rfxd1 and 12... Nxe4 followed by 13...Nxc3.

11.Nxe5 Transposes to 5...Bb4 6.Nf3 Nxb3 7.axb3 O-O 8. O-O d5 9.Bg5! Bxc3 10.bxc3 dxe4 11.Ne5 This is the only move for White that keeps an advantage. The pin of the Bishop on g5 is still there and very soon White will take control over the center aiming to play 12.d4!

11...h6 Black intends to get rid of the pin and to move the Bishop from g5 away. One should not forget that 11...exd3?! would lead to a slight advantage for White after 12.cxd3 . White would have a full center control, open a-file for the Rook on a1 that pressures a7 spot, and with a simple idea of d4, followed by Re1, White has a nice position to play. 12.Bh4 With a simple step back White keeps the pressure on the pinned Knight on f6, and still aims to play d4 which would lead to full central control. Of course, the Rook on a1 helps with the pressure on the weakened a7 pawn, and White can put Black into trouble after a nice Rook lift, such as Ra5.

12...Bf5 Black keeps developing and aims to consolidate after 13...Qd6.

13.Ra5 This is a very interesting move that gives a lot of headaches to Black. With 13.Ra5!? White keeps the pressure on the a7 pawn, but also pins Black's Bishop on f5, threatening to play 13...-- 14.Nxf7! , followed by Rxf5, and to play a position with a clear advantage and a pawn up. Black needs to think about defense and to put development aside for the moment. I would like to mention that 13.Re1 gives a clear advantage to White, with the idea of d4 and Ra5, but I find 13.Ra5!? more interesting and more uncomfortable for the Black side. 13...g5 Black finally gets rid of the pin by Bishop on h4, but one should not forget that at the same time Black weakens the Kingside!

14.Bg3 Bh7 Black puts the Bishop into safety and prevents the White's threat of Nxf7. With the main threat of 15...c6 Black aims to put our Rook into trouble, forcing us to go back. However, it is questionable if Black has time to accomplish all of their ideas, due to the weakened Kingside which we are going to use to create an attack! 15.f4 With this amazing move White gains a clear advantage threatening to play 15...-- 16.fxg5 , followed by Qc1! Black can hardly defend the Kingside, and White's main advantage is the activity of pieces- Ra5 indirectly attacks the g5 weakened square, Knight on e5 is untouchable, while the Rook on f1 joins the game and threatens to put Black into trouble on the semi-opened f-file. Black has issues finding a good plan, as could be seen in the game between Dubov, D - Ding, L chess24.com INT 2020.

15...Nd5 16.Qh5 c6 17.Raa1 f6 18.Ng4 Qe8 19.Qxh6 Qg6 20.fxg5 Reference Games-Dubov,D

[26] **6...Bc5** The main idea of 6...Bc5 is to attack the f2 pawn and to take control of the a7-g1 diagonal. With a possible Ng4, Black aims to

punish White for the late Kingside development. 7.f4 We choose to go for a Vienna hybrid position, aiming to play Nf3, Na4, and O-O. 7...d6 Black is ready to go for Ng4 with the idea to play Nf2. However, you should not be scared of this scenario, because White will be able to gain the initiative, as it will be shown with the upcoming moves. 8.Nf3 As we previously mentioned, White is not scared of the threat of Ng4. The idea is to play Na4, remove the dark-squared Bishop, and castle out of danger. One should not forget that Black's dark-squared Bishop does not have a good spot to move away. 8...a6 Black creates a safe square for the dark-squared Bishop and keeps the idea of Ng4 in the back pocket. Anyway, after 8...a6, White gains an important tempo to continue with our normal yet poisonous development!

[8...Ng4 I know that most of the players think that 8...Ng4?! is a very uncomfortable move for White, and it is hard to realize how to defend from the threats of Nf2 or Bf2. Anyway, 8...Ng4?! is considered as a suspicious move, because White takes full control of the game after the stunner 9.Qe2! 9.Qe2 Black is forced to react now since White aims to play h3, followed by Be3 and the Black's maneuver of Ng4 would be proved to be a loss of time. Bf2+ Black still puts hopes to reach a good position after they stop White from castling. However, White's King does not need to castle to reach the intended safe haven! *(9...Nf2* This happens to be a very common mistake in practice. Black tries to stop White from castling, but this is not easy as it sounds. *10.Rf1* After the simple 10.Rf1 White activates the Rook by putting it on the semi-opened f-file which will be opened soon after fxe5. Black is forced to step back with the Knight, and one should not forget that e5 is still exposed to an attack! *Ng4 11.h3* One more time White forces Black to go back, and it is pretty clear now that the pawn on e5 would be unprotected on the next move. *Nf6 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.Nxe5* With a clear pawn up, a very direct threat of 13...-- 14.Nxf7 Kxf7 15.Qh5 followed by Qxc5, a Rook on the open-f file, and the plan of Bg5, followed by O-O-O, White has a winning position! 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc *)* 10.Kf1 It is clear that Black needs to put the Bishop back if they want to keep a piece due to a threat of h3! Bb6 11.h3 Nf2 White pushes Black's Knight back, but Black may still be stubborn trying to grab some initiative on the Kingside. If Black goes for the more solid 11...Nf6 White has the full initiative after 12.g4! with an idea of Kg2 and activity on the Kingside! 12.Rh2 After 12.Rh2 Black's Knight from f2 has no space to escape. White threatens to play Na4 or Be3, following the well-known attacking rule 'Remove the defender', and one should not forget that also Black's e5 pawn is unprotected. 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

9.Qe2 This is a very important intermediate stage of development.

White needs to get rid of the dark-squared Bishop aiming to play Be3, followed by O-O. Meanwhile, Black's pawn on e5 will be under attack and Black needs to consider defending it passively. 9...Qe7 Black supports the central pawn and has the idea to continue with development, but White has time now to prepare for O-O. If Black played 9...exf4 instead, White would gain a small advantage after 10.Bxf4 O-O 11.d4! with full central control and ideas of O-O, Be3, or Bg5. It is clear that White has a very nice position with plenty of initiative and all of the pieces activated. 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.Be3 And after 11.Be3 White accomplishes the idea to finally remove Black's dark-squared Bishop, aiming to castle. With a possible target to attack e5 , control of the two a and f-open files, White has at least a slight advantage and a clear and easy position to play. I need to mention that White can also proceed with 11.Bg5!? instead, with an idea to make the best out of Black's pinned Knight with Nd5, Black then would be forced to react with 11...c6 which would make the dark squares very weak on the Queenside and it also gives White relatively easy game after 12.O-O-O followed by Rhf1! 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

27 **7...Be7** 8.Nf3 Transposes to 6...Be7 7.f4 d6 8.Nf3, as well as CC StartFEN CC r1bqkb1r/pppp1ppp/5n2/4p3/4P3/1PNP4/1PP2PPP/R1BQK1NR b KQkq - 0 6CCEndFEN CC 6...d6 7.f4 exf4 8.Bxf4 Be7 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

28 **10.0-0** White concludes development and aims to play Qe1-Qf2, followed by h3 and a threat to take the a7 weakened pawn while slowly building up a solid game in the center. 10...d5 A simple space grabbing move that opens up the position and gives the Bishops more space. Although, it allows White the e5 push as well, with the standard plan afterward with d4 and Kingside action.

[10...c6 Black practically plays a waiting move to see White's response and at the same time prepares for a central reaction with d5. 11.Qe1 White continues with the same threat of Qf2, followed by h3, aiming to take the pawn on a7 and to weaken the dark squares in Black's position. One should not forget that White can easily switch to a plan with Qg3 if Black moves the Knight from f6 away, or if they block the h5 square with Nh5. d5 Black is practically forced to react somehow and chooses to go for the central activity. Of course 11...Bg4 would be met with 12.h3 followed by the 13.Qg3 idea. 12.e5 White pushes Black's pieces back and starts grabbing space altogether with good center activity. Nh5 13.Be3 With an attack on the a7 pawn, Black is forced to weaken the dark squares on the Queenside which would give White additional opportunities for the initiative. I would like to emphasize

that in this case White doesn't want to go for d4, which would block the dominant dark-squared Bishop, but White will keep control of the dark squares as long as possible with Qf2 and Rae1. a6 14.Na4 And White gains a clearly better position with the very direct threats of Qf2 and Bb6, which would be followed by Nc5. Black would need to give up on the Bishop pair, and White will be able to develop the play on the dark squares. Of course, White will continue to improve the pieces with Rae1 with some pretty easy play. 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc]

11.e5 White wants to take full control of the center after d4, followed by natural development moves, such as Qd2, Rae1. 11...Nh5 It is clear that Black has only two options to move the Knight away from the attack. Of course 11...Nd7 is impossible due to 12.Nd5. So Black has to choose between 11...Nh5 and 11...Ne8 which is considered very passive. However, after 11...Ne8 White can improve the position with 12.Qe1 and idea of Qg3, followed by Rae1, d4 gaining a slightly better position with the initiative as it could be seen in the game Fortunato, L - Milde, L LSS email 2010.

[11...Ne8 12.Qe1 c6 13.Qf2 Nc7 14.Rxa7 Rxa7 15.Qxa7 Ne6 16.Be3 f6 17.exf6 Bxf6 18.Nd4 Ng5 19.Nce2 Qe8 20.Bxg5 Bxg5 21.Rxf8+ Kxf8 22.Kf1 Be7 23.c3 Bd6 24.b4 Kg8 25.h3 Qf8+ 26.Ke1 Be7 27.Kd2 Qd8 28.Kc2 Qe8 29.Nc1 Qg6 30.g4 Qd6 31.Nf5 Qh2+ 32.Kb1 Bf8 33.Qe3 Kf7 34.Nb3 Qc7 35.Nbd4 Qd7 36.Kc2 Kg8 37.Qg5 Kh8 38.Kb3 Qe8 39.Qf4 Qd8 40.Qb8 Qd7 41.g5 b5 42.h4 Qb7 43.Qxb7 Bxb7 44.Ne6 Bc8 45.Nfd4 Bd6 46.Nd8 Reference Games-Fortunato,L]

12.Be3 With this simple step back White pressures the a7 exposed pawn and we are ready to continue with our plan! 12...a6 13.d4 We gain full control of the center and aim to play normal development moves, such as Qd2, followed by Rf2, Raf1, possible Ne2, and Nf4. The position would be unclear, but I would say that with lots of space and control of e and f-lines White has at least a nice initiative. 13...g6 Black prepares for the possible maneuver of Ng7-Nf5, reaching an outpost on f5 either with the Knight or with the Bishop. White needs to focus on taking advantage of the slightly weakened dark squares now! 14.Ne2 Bg4 15.h3

[15.Qd2 And as it was previously said, White follows up the idea of Rf2, Raf1, Bh6, with the main idea to conquer the dark squares with the initiative. I would also like to mention that also 15.h3 is also possible for White, as it was played in the game Quakkelaar, M - Feroul, M ICCF corr 1995, when after 15...Bxf3 16.Rxf3 White gains a slightly better position to play with Qd2 and Raf1 coming in next.]

15...Bxf3 16.Rxf3 f6 17.Bh6 Ng7 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Nf4 Qd7 20.Qe2 Rae8 21.Re1 Kg8 22.Rg3 g5 23.Nd3 f5 24.Qh5 b6 25.h4 g4 26.Nf4 Bd8 27.Rge3 a5 28.e6 Qg7 29.c3 c6

30.e7 Bxe7 31.Ne6 Qf7 32.Qxf7+ Rxf7 33.Ng5 Rg7 34.g3 f4 35.gxf4 h6 36.f5 hxg5 37.f6 Rg6 38.hxg5 Rxg5 39.fxe7 Rg6 40.Kg2 Kf7 41.Kg3 Rf6 42.Re5 b5 Reference Games-Quakkelaar,M

29 **7...d4** Although 7...d4?! looks like a move that puts pressure on White, it is considered as a suspicious move, since Black will have an eternal weakness on e5. 8.Ne2 White aims to conclude the development with castling and then to swing the Knight from e2 to the Kingside, while Black needs to think about the e5 weakness, as it will be shown later on. 8...Bd6 Black develops and prepares for castling, and at the same time defends the pawn on e5. However, I am sure that Black can not be happy with the activity of the dark-squared Bishop which is eyeing the pawns and has no open diagonals! 9.0-0 As it was previously mentioned, White goes for the simple idea of the relocation of the pieces to the Kingside, aiming to play h3- to stop Black's light-squared Bishop from developing, followed by Ng5. However, 9.c3!? is also a very interesting continuation for White, who wishes to crush Black's center. After 9...Bg4 White would be slightly better after 10.cxd4 Bxf3 11.gxf3 exd4 and 12.Kf1! with an idea of h4 whilst Black's pawn on d4 hangs! 9...0-0 10.h3 This is a very important move that gives to White a slight advantage and chances for a win. Not only that with 10.h3 White stops Black from developing with Bg4, but also prepares Nh2, followed by f4 and opening the Kingside for an attack. Of course, White should not forget about the Ng3 idea which was already previously mentioned. 2) Sidelines in 2...Nc6: The V-Bishop's Opening: 2...Nc6 3.Nc

30 **10.Nxd3** It is time for White to take a pawn back and to continue with activation with Qf3, and the forthcoming Rd1, or Re1, gaining activity on the open files. 10...0-0 Both sides are about to complete their development. Not a while ago, in February 2021, there was a game between Dubov and Vidit where Black found an improvement over the main game Firouzja - Carlsen and went for 10...Bg4!? after which White went for 11.Qe1 O-O but failed to recognize the chance to get a solid advantage after the improvement 12.h3! Bf5 13.Qe3! and in the case of 13...Bxd3?! White would have 14.Rd1! with a small but long-lasting advantage.

[10...Bg4 11.Qe1 0-0 12.Be3 Re8 13.f3 Bf5 14.Qf2 Nd5 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Rad1 Rad8 17.Rfe1 Bb4 18.Re2 Qb5 19.Bf4 Bxd3 20.cxd3 Bc5 21.Rxe8+ Rxe8 22.d4 Qxb3 23.Rc1 Bb6 24.Bxc7 Rc8 25.Qe1 Qxb2 26.Kh1 Ba5 27.Qe3 Bxc7 28.h3 Qb4 29.d5 Qd6 30.f4 Rf8 31.Rc4 Bb6 32.Qe4 h6 33.g4 Rd8 Reference Games-Dubov,D]

11.Qf3 This is the most active move for White who activates the Queen. Not only that the Queen found the most active square, but White also

pressures the b7 pawn and keeps Black's Bishop locked to the starting position. The rook on a1 still pressures the a7 pawn, and in one word, White buys time to activate Rook from f1 to d1. 11...c6 Black blocks the diagonal h1-a8 and the attack on the b7 pawn, threatening to develop the light-squared Bishop with tempo attack on the White's Queen. 12.h3 A very important move for White which prevents the 12...Bg4 move. White's idea is to conclude the development with 13. Rd1, pinning Black's Queen, and aiming to afterward discover-attack the d-file with Nf4, or a possible Nc5. 12...Re8 Black also activates their pieces. Of course, a good alternative for Black would be 12... Be6 but that does not affect our plan of 13.Rd1! 13.Rd1 White has almost finished the development and has two open files for the Rooks and nicely positioned pieces. With the idea of Be3, White aims to activate all of the pieces and to put pressure on the a7 weakened square. 13...Be6 Black aims to reach the outpost on d5 , with the ideas of 13.-- 14... Nd5 or 14...Bd5 , which would at the same time blocks the semi-opened d-file for White's Rd1 . 14.Be3 White was slightly better in the current position, as we already analyzed in the theoretical section of the course. The Rook on a1, altogether with Be3 pressuring the a7 weakness, forcing Black to react, whilst Black's Queen on d8 is pinned by a Rook on d1 and Black also needs to think about Nc5 or Nf4 threats. White finishes development and gains a small advantage based on activity. The Rook on a1, altogether with Be3, controls, and pressures the a7 weakness, forcing Black to react, whilst Black's Queen on d8 is pinned by the Rook on d1 and Black also needs to think about Nc5 or Nf4 threats. The full plan and forthcoming approach by White could be seen in the game Firouzja, A -Carlsen, M chess24.com INT 2020. However, White can also go for a pretty solid alternative, such as 13.Nc5 instead of 13.Be3 . Mainly, Black's primary square for regrouping the pieces is d5 and the move 13.Nc5 directly prevents the good outpost and Black's idea of Nd5 or Bd5, which in some lines could be enough for Black to equalize the position. 14...Qc7 A logical Queen move in order to put his Queen into safety and avoid unpleasant Nf4 and Nc5 threats. 15.Bf4 This was a very nice tempo move that improves White's Bishop and gives White better development and piece activity. 15...Qc8 16.Be5 This is the point of previously seen 15.Bf4. By placing the Bishop on e5, Nf6 becomes potentially vulnerable, the Bishop on e7 is tied up to the defense of the Nf6, and the whole plan with Be3-Bf4-Be5 looks very active and prophylactically improves White's position in the center. 16...Nd7 17.Bd4 One might say that White has not done much with the maneuver Be3-Bf4-Be5-Bd4, although a7 remains weak, 17...

c5?! by Black would create a weakness on d5, while solid and logical 17...Bf6 18.Bxf6 Nxf6 19. Re1 would secure White tiny but long-lasting middlegame advantage. 17...b6 18.Ne4 Young Firouzja slowly but surely taking his pieces towards the Kingside and generates attack! Nf4 has just become a dangerous threat! 18...c5 Carlsen blundered in an already difficult position. Although, he was lucky enough that this was Blitz game and due to that, Firouzja even being considered a great tactician missed the following tactical shot! 19.Bc3 Here a possibility was 19.Bxg7! Kxg7 20.Nf4 followed by 20...--Nh5 , but we have to be honest and point out that there is nothing that obvious for White yet, so missing that move was quite reasonable. 19...f6 20.Nf4 Bf7 21.Rd2 With a simple idea of doubling the rooks along the d-file and slowly penetrating into Black's game. 21...Nf8 22.Rad1 Qc7 23.Qg3 Even though, the silicon machine prefers in a couple of moments other moves for White throughout the game, I really have to say that I enjoyed Firouzja's attack in this game! Keep in mind, this was a Blitz game and his opponent was one of the best players and defenders in the history of this game, where even Carlsen could not find an equalization in this game! White threatens Bxf6 or Nxf6, with the decisive mating attack. 23...Qc6 24.Nxf6+ Great tactical shot that decides the game in White's favor! I have always claimed how after good strategy or patient play, comes easy tactics! 24...Bxf6 25.Rd6 Qe4 26.Bxf6 Ng6 27.Nh5 The final nail in the coffin! The rest was just Carlsen's attempt to catch his opponent off guard in some mess. 27...Qxc2 28.Bxg7 Bxb3 29.Bc3 Re7 30.Nf6+ Kf7 31.Nxh7 Rae8 32.Ng5+ Kg8 33.Ne4 Qxe4 34.Rxg6+ Kf8 35.Rdd6 Rf7 36.Rgf6 Ke7 37.Rxf7+ Reference Games-Firouzja,A The whole concept by White after this game became playable, and I have to admit that even though I did not find it particularly attractive at first, the more I studied it, the more I analyzed it with the engines, I realized how serious this weapon could be! All things considered, after this game, I played this same variation a lot of times, and it turns out to be way more venomous than it looked like!

31 **5...d5** Yuriy Krykun suggests this interesting counterstrike, and I have to say that White has to be well booked up if they want to fight properly for an advantage against quite a surprising and attractive suggestion by Black! Black could also go for the tame 5...exf4 , but that allows White to gain full central control after 6.Bxf4 c6 when Black wants to play d5 and disturb White's coordination while the King is still in the center, but after 7.d4 ±, White is slightly better as he managed to build the center and pushed the Black pieces back. Instead, Black can play and 5...Nc6

. Trying to develop the pieces while remaining flexible in the center, but the downside is that c6–d5 is no longer possible. 6.Nf3 White puts more pressure on the e5 pawn in an attempt to force Black's d6 , with a plan of f5–Bg5–Qd2 and O-O-O White will be able to start a powerful Kingside attack! 6.Nxd5 The straightforward capture of the pawn provides White a stable advantage. Black can not develop the light-squared Bishop on g4 due to the threat of Nf6, leaving the Bishop unprotected, and it is questionable if Black can find a good compensation for a pawn here. 6...Be6 Black aims to force White to trade the active pieces, but with a pawn up, White has no problem to accept that offer!

[6...Ng4 Black is way too optimistic if they go for the material advantage with Nf2, for which White does not care! We can welcome Black's waste of time and effort by continuing with our own actions against Black's King! 7.f5 Limiting the scope of the Black pieces and opens the way up for the dark-squared Bishop, White is ready for Qh5 followed by Bg5 and f6! Nf2 Black is forced to proceed with the previous idea and hopes to gain a decisive material advantage. However, there will be no escape for Black's King afterward! 8.Qh5 As it was previously mentioned, White does not care about the Rook on h1, but prepares for Bg5 and f6, after the Queen has joined the attack with a powerful effect. White is ready to conquer dark squares around Black's King! Nxh1 9.Bg5 Despite being a Rook down, White has a decisive advantage with many pieces looming over the head of Black's King. Black obviously can not defend with 9...f6 due to a discovered check with 10. Nxf6+ ! If Black tries to move the Queen away with 9...Qe8 White wins after 10.Nf6+ ! gxf6 11.Bxf6 with an undefendable mate after 11...-- 12. Qg5 or Qg7#! Of course, 9...Qd6 would be met with 10.f6! and White gains full control of the dark squares around Black's King! This is an important note - this is one of the critical tactical motifs in the whole Bishop's opening - the setup with Bc4, Nd5, Bg5, and Qh5 and White has to be familiar with it and similar attacking ideas! 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d3]

[6...Nxd5 Black tends to clear the way for the Queen check on h4, but White should not have concerns about that thanks to full center control! 7.Bxd5 Bxg1 To be able to realize the benefit from Qh4, Black needs to first take the Rook away from the defense of the h2 pawn. 8.Rxg1 Qh4+ Black proceeds with a counterattack on the Kingside, but White should not be worried about it. One should not forget that Black's Queen on h2 will out of play. Instead of an immediate check, Black can also play intermediary 8...c6 9.Bb3 Qh4 10.g3 Qxh2 11.Be3 entering a similar position as it will be shown here, where White has a clear long-term advantage of the Bishop pair, while Black has a marginalized Queen on the h-file. 9.g3 Qxh2 10.Be3 And White gains a clear advantage holding the Bishop pair in the fairly

open position. Additionally, the Black's Queen is terribly sidelined, and one should not forget that Black traded the important central d-pawn for White's edged h-pawn. The opening of the h-file might be White's advantage with possible actions on the Kingside after f5, Rc1 or Bf2, Qf3 and Rh1 or even simple Qd2 with much better middlegame chances! 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.d3]

7.Nxf6+ White accepts the trades and simplifies the position with a pawn up on the board. Black needs to be precise to take the material back, but White will have full center control afterwards, as it will be explained soon! 7...Qxf6 8.Bxe6 fxe6 Black managed to open the f-file for Queen and the Rook, stopping White to keep the material advantage. However, White continues with development and solid play, having a slight advantage based on Black's bad pawns on the e-file. 9.Nf3 With a simple development move, White threatens Black's pawn on e5, and Black is forced to react. 9...exf4 10.c3 As it was mentioned, White is ready to build a center fortress with full control. The game started quite sharp but after the dust has settled, White will enjoy a fine positional advantage, as it will be shown soon. 10...Nc6 Black proceeds with development and prepares to join the Rook in a game after Rad8. However, that does not stop White to build the center! 11.d4 White finally reaches full-center control! To better understand the position, it is important to emphasize that White's play is no longer oriented to a Kingside, but White will search for action on the Queenside after the forthcoming b4 and a4! 11...Bb6 Black steps back and keeps an eye on the White's center. 12.b4 In anticipation of the Black's counterplay in the center, White seizes the space on the Queenside. The advance has more than this sole purpose:1 CC EndBracket CC it puts pressure on the Black's pieces that are targeting the center with an idea of a4. 2 CC EndBracket CC it takes away control of the a5 square from the Black's Knight. 3CC EndBracket CC it clears the second rank for the Rook maneuver of Ra2, coming after a4! 12...e5 Black's only chance for activation is to attack the center, but White has no issues after the Queenside activity! 13.a4 With a direct threat to capture the Bishop on b6, White at the same time buys time for center support after Ra2 and Re2! 13...a6 Black might also play 13...a5 14. b5 but White gains a clearly better position pushing Black's Knight back, and we will be able to simply take the e5 pawn!

[13...exd4 With White's King in the center, Black tries to compensate the loss of a Bishop after a5, but White will have a possibility to hide the King with O-O after removing Black's dark squared Bishop. 14.a5 dxc3 Black's idea is to double attack the Queen on d1 and the Rook on a1 after a forthcoming 15...c2 . However, thanks to a clever intermediary move

which will be shown soon, White will be able to escape! 15.axb6 c2 16.Qd5+ This elegant intermediate check secures the material advantage for White! We are ready to block the a1-h8 diagonal after e5 and castling, solving our issues, and a better position! Kh8 17.e5 White should not be worried about the forthcoming pin Rae8, because the King is ready to go castle, and one should not forget that White has a Bishop on c1 as a main defensive asset! Rae8 18.0-0 With the King finally safe, White can enjoy the material advantage and a clearly better position. After the trades on e5 with 19...Nxe5 20.Nxe5 Rxe5 White should just take care and place the Queen on d4 , preventing the discovered attacks along the a1-h8 diagonal. Thereafter, bxa7, Rxf4, and Bb2 will be strong threats. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.d3]

14.Qb3+ It is useful to have the Queen here controlling the g8-square. With Black's King in the corner, Black cannot be very comfortable advancing the Kingside pawns as g5-h5 will be met by simple h3. Any opening of this flank could be fatal.

14...Kh8 15.d5 The center is closed and the White's King is perfectly safe even without castling. White has a direct threat of c4-c5, with an immediate attack on the Black's dark-squared Bishop which will not be able to join the game afterward. Additionally, the Rook can move along the 2nd rank with the Ra2-Re2 maneuver to protect g2 and e4 pawns with a clear space advantage for White. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.d3

[32] **10.g4** As it could be seen in the game Gappel, H-Teipel, T Remote email 2013, White is set to storm with the g5, h4, and h5 pawns with a huge attack on the Black's King. On the other hand, Black doesn't have many possibilities for counterattack due to the badly positioned and locked-up pieces on the Queenside. An interesting fact is that the engine funnily gives Black slightly better chances in the game, and this is one of those positions where I am ready to bet with anyone that out of 10 games, you will win at least 9 since I'll just count a game that Black wins if we maybe blunder the Queen in one of them! 10...Nfd7 11.Nh3 Nc5 12.Bg5 Qc7 13.f6 g6 14.Ba2 b4 15.Ne2 d5 16.Nf2 Rd8 17.h4 Ne6 18.Rd1 Na6 19.Bc1 Nac5 20.exd5 cxd5 21.h5 g5 22.axb4 Na6 23.Bxd5 Rxd5 24.Qxd5 Bb7 25.Qxa5 Bb6 26.Qb5 Bxh1 27.Nxh1 Qb7 28.Qxe5 Qxh1+ 29.Kd2 Qg2 30.c3 Re8 31.Qe4 Qf2 32.Re1 h6 33.Kd1 Nac7 34.Qh1 Rd8 35.Qf1 Qxf1 36.Rxf1 Rxd3+ 37.Kc2 Rh3 38.c4 Rh2 39.Kd1 Rg2 40.b3 Rxg4 41.b5 Kf8 42.Bb2 Nc5 43.Rf3 Ke8 44.Nd4 Rg1+ 45.Kc2 Rg2+ 46.Kc1 N7e6 47.b4 Nxd4 48.Bxd4 Nb3+ 49.Rxb3 Bxd4 50.b6 Bxb6 51.c5 Bc7 52.Re3+ Kd8 53.Re7 g4 54.Rxf7 Bf4+ 55.Kd1 g3 56.Rg7 Bg5 57.Rg8+ Kd7 58.f7 Rf2 59.Rg7 Ke7 60.Ke1 Rf5 Reference Games-Gappel,H

[33] **2...d6** 3.Bc4 Be7 4.d3 Nf6

5.Nbd2 0-0 6.c3 c6 7.Bb3 Na6 8.Bc2 Re8 9.0-0 Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.Re1 Nc7 12.Nf1 Ne6 Black chooses a different approach expecting the central break by White with d5. Black wants to be ready for that with a Knight on f6 and the Rook placed on the e-file. 13.Ng3 White continues with the hunt of the light-squared Bishop and eyes the outpost on f5. 13...Bxf3 Once again the retreat of the Bishop is inferior 13...Bg6 14.Nh4 ± when White is firmly seizing the f5-square. The Queen will join the play via the f3-square and the light-squared Bishop will return to a2-g8 diagonal with Bb3 . It should be noted that after 14.Nh4 Nxe4 is not possible as 15.Nxg6 Nxg3 16.Nxe7+ wins a piece. 14.Qxf3 White eyes the f5-square. 14...g6 15.Bd2

[15.Nf1 This is my improvement over the few games that I've found in this position, and I recommend you to check the game between Brooks, M-Benjamin, J Saint Louis 2009 to get familiar with White's ideas here. With 15.Nf1! White aims to reposition the Knight to a better place. The plan is Nf1-Nh2-Qe2-Nf3 CC StartBracket CC or even Ng4!? CC EndBracket CC , together with a4 CC StartBracket CC to secure the light-squared on the a2-g8 diagonal CC EndBracket CC and White has a slight positional advantage thanks to the space control and long-term advantage of the Bishop pair.]

15...Qc7 16.Bb3 Nc5 17.Bc2 Ne6 18.Bb3 Nc5 19.Bc2 Ne6 20.Bb3 Nc5 21.Bc2 Ne6 22.Bb3 Nc5 23.Bc2 Ne6 24.Bb3 Nc5 25.Bc2 Ne6 Reference Games-Brooks,M

34 **8...Kf8** Although this move may look illogical, it can be dangerous. Black aims to activate pieces through the g-file eyeing our King on g1. However, this will not end up that way, as you will see soon! 9.Nbd2 Whenever you have a chance to develop with a tempo attack - you should do it! An active development move buys time for future actions. Not only that Black's pawn on c4 hangs, but we want to centralize and cover important dark squares after the forthcoming Ne4! 9...Bb4 Black plays twice with the same piece in the opening, but he tries to stop mentioned Ne4 idea with a pin of the Knight and the Rook.

[9...gxf6 There are many ways for Black to directly enter the losing position and this is only one of them. It looks that Black does not have issues with dark squares at this moment, but this is only temporary. 10.Ne4 Following the mentioned idea we put Black into trouble! 11.Bh6 will follow with a tremendous attack after 12.Qd2 and Black will be left without useful moves! Be7 Black desperately tries to cover the dark squares, but it is too late... 11.Bh6+ Another tempo development move for White, leading to a deadly attack. Black's King will be locked to g8 and it is obvious that we will have a bunch of mating threats through the g7 square. Kg8 12.Qd2 It can be already said that White has a huge advantage. King on g8 is in the mating net and White aims to finish the game with the Qf4-Qg3 idea. Of course, Black also faces

issues with terrible pawn structure and f6 and d4 weaknesses. There are many ideas for the following development and I would turn to some of them. It maybe looks that Black covers the King with 12...Ne5 but after 13.Qf4 Black again faces issues of mate threats. The only defending move would be 13...Ng6 there, but White strikes back with beautiful tactical engagement 14. Nxf6! Black needs to accept the sacrifice 14...Bxf6 15.Qxf6! but White does not stop and again threatens to mate with Qg7. Of course after 15...Qxf6 16.Re8 comes with an unstoppable mate 16...Nf8 17. Rxf8# If instead, Black tries to cover the King with 12...Bf5 White is clearly winning after 13.Qf4 , threatening the Bishop and forcing 13...Bg6 Once again, beautiful tactics decide the result 14.Nxf6! Bxf6 and Black cannot stop 15.Re8! Qxe8 with 16.Qxf6 coming afterward with a scary Qg7 mate threat. 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #2]

[9...Qd5 This move can look promising for Black as he holds the center here and aims to proceed with Bf5 and potential Bg6 that solves an issue with the King. Anyway, White will not give up on the main idea of centralization and active development which would put horrible pressure on Black's pieces. 10.Ne4 White starts to conquer the dark squares. The main idea of the move is Bg5, followed by fxg7 and Bf6+. Black would not be able to hold everything here as White has several threats at the moment. Bf5 It maybe looks lethargic, but Black does not have a better option but to develop and try to keep pieces in active spots. Unfortunately for Black, and luckily for us, this move does not save things! 11.fxg7+ White forces the King to comes out from the shadow and the boom will follow! Kxg7 12.Bh6+ Here it is! An unpredictable move that solves the game in our favor. Once again, White drags the King out as he cannot go back with 12...Kg8 due to ruthless mate with 13.Nf6! Kxh6 13.Qd2+ All the moves from here come naturally. There is no anchor for Black here after the forthcoming Qg5 and Nf6 as it could be seen in the game between Ponkratov,P - Shinkevich,V Khanty-Mansiysk 2013. Kg7 14.Qg5+ Black cannot save the King with Bg6 due to a hanging Queen on d5. Also, 14...Kf8 faces 15.Qh6! It is game over. 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #1]

10.a3 As the Bishop bothers us with the plans, we simply kick it out. Black is basically forced to take the Knight and clear the way through the dark squares. 10...Bxd2 11.Bxd2 The position may look solid, but White has nasty threats I want to introduce. The idea is 11...-- 12. Nxd4 and if Black naturally responses with 12...Nxd4 it will be game over after 13.Bb4 Kg8 14. Qd4! Black cannot take back due to a weakened back rank and Re8 mate threat! The position may look solid, but White has nasty threats I want to introduce. The idea is 11...-- 12.Nxd4 and if Black naturally responses with 12...Nxd4 it will be game over after 13.Bb4 Kg8 14.

Qxd4! Black cannot take back due to a weakened back rank and Re8 mate threat! 11...Bg4 Black uses a development move to stop the threat of 12.Nd4, but we will practice the same 'kick-out' rule to move the pieces that stops to take actions!

[11...Qxf6 Taking a pawn does not prevent the described threat of Nd4! White dives into a clearly better position with a beautiful sacrifice! 12.Nxd4 Black has a hard time deciding what to do here. White threatens to proceed with 13. Nc6 and 14. Bb4 as the position of the King on f8 cannot be improved. If Black continues with 12...Nxd4 he faces the previously mentioned line with 13. Bb4 and back rank mate after 13... Kg8 14.Re8 . On the other hand, if Black goes with 12...Qxd4 13.Bb4! comes with a similar follow-up as Black still faces issues with the defense of the 8th rank and practically needs to proceed with 13... Nxb4 giving up the Queen 14.Qxd4 , with winning position for White. 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #3]

12.h3 With a simple 12. h3 we force Black to step back but also we might accomplish more. If Black proceeds with 12...Bxf3?! here, White gains a clearly better position with 13.Qxf3 Qxf6 and after an exchange of the Queens with 14. Qxf6 gxf6 Black faces issues with bad pawn structure and weak dark squares. After 15.Bh6 Kg8 White has nasty threats after 16.a4 of Ra3-Rg3. 12...Bh5 Black practically needs to keep the tension and to hold the Knight on f3. But as you will see, this does not work either! 13.Bg5 We continue with active development and frightening threats. The idea is, of course, fxg7 and the Queen on d8 would be hanging. Black needs to react immediately. 13...gxf6 14.Bh6+ It is the fact that Black has two paws up here, but thanks to better pieces and exposed King on f8, White has a better position. 14...Kg8 15.Nxd4 Once again, White uses the weakened back rank to sharpen the things, as it could be seen in the game Bischof,G-Rades, A DESC email 2006. If Black accepts the Queen's sacrifice with 15...Bxd1 there is a beautiful answer of 16.Nxc6 bxc6 and 17. Raxd1 that puts Black's Queen into huge trouble. The threat is Re3-Rg3# and it is questionable if Black can defend it. 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #4

35 **9...g6** This is a very interesting move for Black that might give them a solid play. But according to my experience, only experienced correspondence players and top engines are aware of this move. Black has a direct threat to overtake the f6 pawn and to slide into a quick castle. 10.Qf3 There are several interesting moves here for White, but I prefer 10. Qf3 is a developing move that holds the f6 pawn safe. White prepares the battlefield for possible sacrifices or trades through e6 square. One of the interesting alternatives would be 10. Nd2 here, with an attack on the c4

pawn, as the Be6 stays pinned. After 10...Qd5 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12. Ne4 Black has a solid play, but this is an interesting position for a human game after 12...O-O-O and 13.b3 break through the Queenside. I want to note here that you should not fall into logical 10.Nxe6 as after 10...fxe6 11. Rxe6 Black keeps everything safe with a simple 11...Kf7 10...0-0 It looks dangerous to castle Kingside here, but as I mentioned in the beginning, this is an engines' line, and it is hard to expect these moves to be played by a human in regular games. With a very precise move, this can lead to an equal chances position. If Black continued here with 10...Qd6?! which is considered to be suspicious, White would have a very good play after 11.Bf4 - development move to come with a tempo attack, and after 11...Qd7 Black faces a very nice sacrifice 12. Rxe6! as it was shown in the game Miralles,G-Fontaine,R France 2004. Black needs to continue with 12... fxe6 giving nice play to White after 13.f7 and the forthcoming Be5. White controls all the dark squares there, while Black faces issues with the exposed King. 11.Rxe6 White needs to take control here, faced with Black's potentially dangerous asset of Bishop pair. 11...fxe6 12.f7+ Since the pawn on f6 hangs, White needs to go for an intermediary move before taking on e6. 12...Kh8 13.Nxe6 The main idea of our play is to include the dark-squared Bishop, putting Black's King into problems again. Black needs to be precise to equalize the game... 13...Qe7 14.Bg5 Another sacrifice forcing the only moves for Black. After trades through the f7 square with 14... Qxf7 15.Qxf7 Rxf7 White takes the piece with 16.Nxc5 but Black holds the position after 16...Re8 and the position are evaluated equally by engines after 17.Nd2 Of course, in the real human game, it would be very hard to hold the position with a piece down. Further plans could be seen in the game Aldrete Lobo,J-Ruefenacht,M ICCF email 2000. 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #9

9...0-0 Short castle does not look like a good idea here and within a few moves, this presumption will be proved! 10.fxg7 Black's King got into troubles immediately after the castle and Black is forced to move the King out from safety. White's threat is Qh5 and of course, direct gf8. 10...Kxg7 11.Rxe6 With easy tactics, White again reaches a piece-up position before the game entered the middle game. Maybe it looks to you that these are the moves that will not happen often, as soon as you start playing Max Lange attack, you will be proved to be wrong! Many players are not familiar with these ideas, and this will be your main advantage, especially in short time control games! 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #8

9...Qd7 Black has a nice idea to proceed with long castle here and hopes to hold the 7th rank after the

Be6 trade. Anyway, White has something else in the mind here! 10.fxg7 If the Black's idea was to hold the g7 spot with the Queen, we will not allow it! Faced with a slightly different order of moves, Black has no way to escape. Of course, immediate 10.Nxe6 would be winning as well as after 10...fxe6 11.Qh5 Black cannot defend the Bishop on c5 while he is under the check. However, 10. fxg7 is a little bit more precise. 10...Rg8 Black must feel miserable here facing the threat of Ne6 and Qh5. He did not have a better choice after bad 9...Qd7? 11.Nxe6 fxe6 12.Qh5+ And after only 12 moves of play White got a winning position with a clear piece up. There are no dangerous threats for us here, and Black will be forced to resign as soon as we conclude the development. 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #7

9...Qd6 It looks that Black keeps the Bishop on c5 protected with this move, and prevents the Qh5 move after trades through the e6 square, However, it will be shown soon that White anyway gets the winning position following the same path. 10.Nxe6 fxe6 Black's King has opened again and that is what we aimed for. Anyway, you should not rush here with a check, but first put Black into double trouble! 11.fxg7 With an important intermediary move, White moves the Rook from the h7 pawn. Not only that the pawn on h7 will hang after the forthcoming Qh5, but Black's King will end up in the mating net due to the Bg5 threat. 11...Rg8 Black needs to follow the only move, putting the Rook in a clumsy position. 12.Qh5+ White has several threats with a single check. The hanging pawn on h7is the less important here, as we have more dangerous ideas. First of all, Black needs to search for a proper square for the King, but this is impossible to reach. White can continue with either Qf7, Bg5, or further developing, depending on Black's answer here. However, all the moves lead to a winning position now. 12...Kd7 This is the most solid square for King at this point and Black hopes to include the Rook from a8 in the game, as soon as possible. If 12...Kd8 instead, Black would face huge troubles with Rg8 after 13.Qf7 as there is no defense from all the threats: Qg8; Bg5-Re6. After a possible 12... Ke7 White wins in a similar way with 13.Bg5 and the forthcoming Qf7. 13.Nd2 Once again, Black faces an unstoppable threat of Ne4. It is clear that everything hangs in Black's position and he simply doesn't have time to consolidate. After the Ne4 move, there will be Nf6 as an option, but of course, the main idea will be to double attack Qd6 and Bc5. 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #6

9...Qxf6 Even though it looks that Black solved the problem with a King, and he is only one step to the castle, this is a move that leads directly to losing position, and believe it or not Black failed for this in more than 168 games!! Black

forgot the power of the Queen from d1! 10.Nxe6 After simple trade, Black's King will be vulnerable again. 10...fxe6 11.Qh5+ With a double attack on the King and the Bishop, White reaches a winning position with a piece up. This is a very common scenario in blitz games! 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #5

10.Nc3 White uses all the opportunities to develop actively. Knight goes in the center and Black's Queen is under attack, so he needs to think again about good options for pieces. Black is again faced with many tricks and has to find a proper way to avoid them!

10...Qf5 The only move that saves Black from the powerfull pin through the e-file is 10... Qf5. White needs to be careful here about the f6 pawn which is the main asset in the desirable Kingside attack. More than that, not only that Black threatens to take Qf6, but he has an even more dangerous threat for us- dc3, taking the whole piece.

[10...Qd7 At the first sight 10...Qd7? looks natural as Black holds the weakened e6 square and still prepares for the castle. However, after a few moves only, Black will be stuck with losing position! You should not forget that Knight on c3 is not hanging as after 10...dxc3?? Black loses the Queen with a simple 11.Qxd5! due to the pinned Be6. 11.Nce4 The Knights are connected and Black is faced with another direct threat: 11...-- 12.Nxc5! With King in the center, Black is not comfortable to delay the development furthermore, but he is left without other choices. Bb6 11...Bf8 instead does not make a huge difference for us, as we still reach the winning position after forced 12.fxg7 Bxg7 13.Nc5! Black cannot survive the upcoming 14. Nxe6 due to a pinned King on e8, clumsy Bishop on e6, and Queen on d7 hangs as well. Black's King will after trades stay in the center for a long time, and White will find an easy way to use an open e-file for discovered checks to win material advantage. 12.fxg7 White's strength over dark squares is finally visible! Black cannot hold everything as White threatens several things at the moment: Nf6 comes, as well as an active gh8 which immediately wins. It is game over with our favorite 1:0 result! 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #10]

11.Nce4 Once again we improve the position of our pieces with a tempo attack. Do not be naive to trust that our idea is only to take 11....-- 12. Nxc5 with following 13. Ne6, but we have a cunning threat of 11...-- 12.fxg7 with 13. g4! This would put Black's Queen into trouble since the Qf5 won't be able to hold both f6 and Bc5. 11...0-0-0 The only chance for Black to escape issues is to put the King into safety as soon as possible. With a quick castle, Black wants to activate Kingside Rook and possibly use the g-file for activation. However, we will take control from here, not letting Black get more initiative.

[11...Bb6 Black simply steps back from the attack and aims to continue with the development of 0-0-0. As the main White's mission is to slow down

Black's actions, White will once again search for tempo moves and quick activity. 12.Ng3 Knight gets an active square with an attack on the Black's Queen. Despite that, the Rook on e1 once again controls the open file and pins the Be6 and Ke8. Black needs to think about the defense of the e6 square, as well as g7 pawn and possible Nh5 jumps. Qg6 If you have been wondering why Black cannot simply proceed with 12...Qxf6? - the answer is simple: White directly wins after with 13.Nh5! Black will have issues to defend both e6 and g7 spots, and there will be plenty of winning tactical chances for White. 13.fxg7 White again delays Black's development and ruins the Kingside pawn structure. More than that, dark squares around the Black's King start to be vulnerable and there are open chances for Nh5 or Qh5 moves! Rg8 One should not forget that Black cannot recapture the g7 pawn with 13...Qxg7 as the Bishop on e6 would stay unprotected. 14.Nxe6 would come with the forthcoming 14...fxe6 15.Rxe6 and Black will be in huge trouble with the King in the center. 14.Qh5 A very good move by White that could be seen in the game Pilgaard,K-Sodoma,J Plovdiv 2010. White clears the way for the Knight to come with the uncomfortable threat of Nf6. Of course, Black now needs to think about vulnerable h7 and f7 pawns and still undeveloped King. 0-0-0 The best choice for Black is to give up from hopes that he can create any action over Kingside. By accepting the Queen trade Black dives into an endgame where White has a small advantage, but he can try to hold the position and reveal from the pressure. 15.Qxg6 Of course, White should not be scared of trades. With a much better pawn structure and plenty of weaknesses to attack we will have nice initiative and possibilities to improve pressure on Black's pieces. hxg6 16.Nxe6 With another exchange, we kill Black's Bishop pair and create two additional weaknesses- e6 and g6 pawns! fxe6 17.Bh6 There is no reason to hurry with overtaking the e6 pawn as it hangs anyway. We should first defend the 7th rank passed pawn which can put Black into hard times very soon. White has many squares to play through- Ne4-Nf6 could be a potential plan. One should not forget that White's pieces are better positioned than Black's as it was proven in the previously mentioned game Pilgaard,K -Sodoma,J Plovdiv 2010. 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #13]

[11...Bf8 This might look like a passive move, but Black holds important squares afterward. He aims to proceed with long castle and quick activity through the Kingside, so we are forced to react as soon as possible! 12.Nxf7 White uses the badly positioned King on e8 to open the position up just one step before Black managed to put the King on the safe spot. Black is now forced to drag the King out from the shelter, losing an option to castle after during the game. Kxf7 13.Ng5+ Only one move after, White takes the material back and manages to keep the initiative. Meanwhile Black will face issues with

undeveloped pieces- Bf8, Rh8, and bad King. Kg8 14.Nxe6 Thanks to a nicely positioned Knight on e6, Black's center hangs. We directly threaten to take 14...-- 15.Nxd4 and Black's position would fall apart. Re8 Black finds an active move to deal with the Nd4 threat. Using the back rank and not connected Rooks there, Black pins the Knight on e6 and hopes to forces as many trades as possible. Namely, trades and entering an endgame will neutralize Black's problem with a bad King, and Black will have more space for maneuvring and activation. 15.Nxf8 As previously mentioned, face with an issue of the hanging Knight on e6, White is forced to accept this trade of a good Knight for a bad Bishop. However, we will stabilize the position soon after. Rxf8 Of course Black cannot expect to trades rooks here as well, since 15... Rxe1 instead would lead to 16.Qxe1 and after 16...Kxf8 Black's King would be very exposed through the weakened dark squares. 16.Qe2 With two pieces on the f-file, Rook and the Queen, Black was ready to put the pressure on the f2 pawn. This is a simple prophylactic and development move that keeps the f2 pawn safe and prepares White for further development. d3 Black certainly does not want to let us stabilize and get initiative. He wants to activate and makes space for Nd4. Anyway, White will not have trouble here after removing these threats. 17.cxd3 cxd3 18.Qd1 After a simple trade of pawns, White turns to control of the light squares. Queen gets an option to be activated through the b3 square when Black's King has problems. It is important to understand that here White has a long-term small advantage thanks to a better Bishop than Knight in an endgame. The Bishop will be easily developed through the e3 square, and we will include another Rook in the game with a possible Rc1-Rc5 lift. 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #12]

[11...0-0 Kingside castling is not a good idea for Black. It maybe looks that Black's King will find safe spots and that Qf5 holds most of the squares there. It will be shown that is not easy as it sounds for Black to hold the position here. 12.fxg7 White starts to break the Kingside and all of a sudden we get a bunch of opportunities for further activation and mate attacks. Following a few more moves, Black will face troubles that would force him to resign! Kxg7 Do not forget that whenever Black's King stays on the g8 square, for example after 12...Rfe8 , White has a fierce answer 13.g4! Black's Queen will once again be stretched to defense of both f6 square and the Bishop on c5, and it is impossible to take care of both of them! 13.Nxc5 I think that it is already obvious that King on g7 and Queen on c5 would be available for sacrifices and forks. This is our main goal that will be achieved very soon! Qxc5 14.Rxe6 Since Black cannot recapture with 14...fxe6 due to the double attack 15. Nxe6 , Black ends up here with a piece down and a weakened King. 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #11]

12.g4 White uses a beautiful motive to

force Black to play only moves. Black still faces issues with the defense of f7 square, Be6, and Bc5, and now the Queen that held all of those hangs! 12...Qe5 This is practically the only move for Black that can save him from this position. Although the Queen on e5 looks very clumsy as it is confronted by the Rook on e1, this cannot be directly used by White.

[12...Qxg4+ If Black accepts the pawn sacrifice, White will quickly get more material. 13.Qxg4 Bxg4 14.Nxf7 After trading, Black again ends up in a position where several pieces hang. It is a difficult choice to decide what to give up and this is at least clearly better for White. 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #16]

[12...Qg6 Although Black puts the last hopes that he might be able to have a counterplay if White takes Nc5, White will be smarter than that! An important intermediary move will make Nc5 possible1 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.fxg7 Black could not do anything about trade over the e6 square and now has two pieces hanging same time! With at least piece up in the pocket, White has a huge decisive advantage! 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #15]

[12...Qd5 It just looks that with 12... Qd5 Black keeps control over the important squares that are previously mentioned, but this is a bad move that we can use immediately to benefit a lot. 13.fxg7 With issues to find a good position for the Rook on h8, Black also has to think about the forthcoming Nf6. There is no defense anymore. Rhg8 14.Nf6 White wins the material advantage, taking an exchange. Not only that we can resolve all the problems afterward with simple trades, but Black still has Be6, f7, and h7 under pressure. White is clearly better! 5) The Max Lange Attack-Max Lange attack #14]

13.Nxe6 White first decides to remove the Bishop on e6 and to clear things on the Kingside. Black will again have issues defending both g7 and Bc5. 13...fxe6 Black is forced to take with 13...fxe6, giving us a chance to weaken the Kingside even more. If 13...Qxe6 was played, both 14.Nxc5 or 14.fxg7 with the forthcoming Nc5 lead White to a winning position with a piece-up advantage. 14.fxg7 Rhg8 Of course, Black cannot recapture the pawn as the Bishop on c5 would be hanging. After 14...Qxg7 15.Nxc5 White would have a winning position with a piece up. 15.Bh6 White keeps the pawn on g7 safe as it is only one square in front of promotion! This pawn will also stop Black from taking any actions while we will have time to activate Re1 and possibly use the pin of the Queen on e5. Queen from d1 and Rook from a1 will soon join the game as it was shown in the game Aldrete Lobo,J-Herrera,G corr 1992. 15...d3 The most aggressive and direct approach by Black, this has been played in more than 180 games! Black is trying to take advantage of the potentially dangerous d-pawn and get the maximum benefit out of it! With this move, Black has just opened the

position up for the Bishop on c5, threatens a lethal d2 push, a hyper solid Bb6 CC StartBracket CC with the idea of keeping a strong Bishop and to avoid Nc5 by White CC EndBracket CC, and more so hopes for Knight jump onto d4 at some point! 16.c3 Quite an important move that prevents some Nd4 and gives White a pretty simple threat of Nc5 or even the way more dangerous Qf3! that supports Nf6! with an attack on the Queen on e5 and the Rook on g8! 16...d2 Very challenging! Black takes advantage of the d-pawn, and uses the fact that White can not take it, also threatening the Rook on e1, but more importantly all of a sudden gives Black the very tactical idea of Rd3-Rh3 threat! Believe it or not this position was seen in more than 100 games so far! 17.Re2 This is practically forced. White has the quite typical simplifying idea of Nxc5 in which case the pawn on d2 would just end up as a serious weakness. 17...Rd3 Even though the idea of the last move seems quite forcing and obvious, I am of opinion that White might easily forget about it, which would lead to complete catastrophe! If White simply allows the Rook invasion on h3, he could easily pack his stuff and leave the battlefield badly beaten! 18.Qf1 Apart from preventing Rh3, this move also gives White hyper solid Rd1 which could fully consolidate White's game and turn the rest of the game into an easily winning middlegame where Black lacks effective counterplay eventually! 18...Qd5 Black still has a glimmer of hope for one of last trick, the d1 pawn promotion into a Queen... 19.Nxd2 With this move, it looks like Black's dreams have shattered into pieces, and from this point onwards White begins the conversion of his advantage! Now, the g7 pawn gets a full role! 19...Be7 Black hopes for either Bg5 or Bf6, in which case pawn on g7 would not be any more dangerous in the position. 20.Qg2 When your opponent has a broken pawn structure it is reasonable, to begin with, to piece trade and leave your opponent only with a weakened pawn structure. 20...Bf6 21.Qe4 The strong central positioning of White's Queen poses plenty of questions for Black, such as Qxh7!, Qxe6, the pawn on c4 is weak as well and this practically leaves Black without proper defense. 21...Bxg7 22.Qxh7 Black is hopeless since none of these two pieces can be defended simultaneously and the game is ended. 22...Ne7 23.Bxg7 Black resigned due to the inability to do anything after 23... Rxd2 24.Rxd2 Qxd2 25.h3! , which would defend and over-support the g4 pawn and keep threats such as Bd4, Bf6, or Bh4. I also have to point out that after CC StartFEN CC 2kr2r1/ppp3Pp/2n1p2B/2b1q3/2p1N1P1/3p4/PPP2P1P/R2QR1K1 w - - 0 16 CC EndFEN CC 15...d3! I found more than 180 games that had been played in absolutely the same fashion! In my opinion, even though it was played many years ago, this

game was superb in terms of White's defense, in opposing Black's threats, and almost perfect realization and conversion of the advantage! This is why I chose it to be the model game. Usually, remembering one important game should be enough for a proper understanding of certain variations. Hope this one will give you lots of pleasure and success in the future! Enjoy the Max Lange attack! Model Games-Aldrete Lobo,J

36 **10.Bb3** Ned4 Reference Games-Knorr,B

37 **2...c6** Lately, I keep facing this move more and more. Black aims to take central control with d5. It requires certain precision by White so, it would be good to remember the following two moves! However, 2...c5?! is considered a suspicious move, since Black plays against the basic rules of chess, which is that development is the most important thing to be followed in the opening. 3.Nc3 With a simple developing move, White prevents the threat of d5, completes development, and aims to strike back in the center with the idea of d4! 3...Nf6 Black might choose to go for a development move, threatening to play d5 which would put White into an uncomfortable position since both Bc4 and pawn on e4 would be hanging.

[3...b5 Pressuring the Bishop on c4, Black wants to move the Bishop away from the dangerous diagonal a2-g8 with an aggressive approach of b5, followed by a5-a4. 4.Bb3 With a simple step back, White keeps the Bishop safe on the most active square. At the same time, with two minor pieces developed, White aims to conclude development with Nf3, O-O, and to react in the center with d4! b4 *(4...a5* Once again, Black pressures the light-squared Bishop threatening to trap it after 5.-- 5...a4. It is worth mentioning that also 4... b4 is possible for Black and after 5. Nce2 a5 White can create a safe spot for the light-squared Bishop with 6.c3 , and at the same time planning to go for Nf3, d4, and O-O, as it could be seen in the game Dickl, E - Ryska, J Remote email 2011. *5.a4* White strikes back as actively as possible, and forces Black to react with the pawn on b5, which is now under attack. And while Black needs to push the pawns away from danger, this creates outposts in Black's camp that White can use; we keep on with our development plans. *b4 6.Nce2* After a simple step back, White is ready to finalize his development with Nf3, O-O, and d4. One should not forget that the light-squared Bishop is perfectly placed, safe, and has full control of the light squares, eyeing the f7 weakness. *Nf6* Black follows up with normal development and attacks the e4 pawn. However, thanks to our more active pieces, White will once again ignore Black's threats! *7.Nf3* At the same time, White develops the Knight, prepares to castle, and attacks the e5 pawn. Of course, White keeps the idea of playing d4 later on opening up the center and aiming to reach Black's exposed King. *Nxe4 8.Nxe5*

With three White pieces actively develop and an attack on the f7 weakened square, it is obvious that White has a clear development advantage. To understand the position better, it is important to know the further plan for White, which is to play d4, O-O, Re1, and possible Ng3 or Nf4. *d5* Black blocks the light-squared Bishop and prepares for development as well. However, White still has a small positional advantage due to an outpost on e5 which is already conquered by the Knight! *9.d4* White gains central control and reaches a position with a small advantage based on the better development and Black's weakened Queenside. The idea of White is simple: O-O, Bf4, followed by Ng3, and a possible c4 would put Black in deep trouble. 6) Odds and Ends-Odds and Ends: 2...c6 3. Nc3 #) 5.Nce2 a5 6.c3 Nf6 7.Nf3 Nxe4 8.Nxe5 d5 9.d4 Bd6 10.0-0 0-0 11.Bf4 Ba6 12.cxb4 axb4 13.Re1 Qh4 14.f3 Bxe5 15.Bxe5 Nf2 16.Qd2 Nd3 17.Bg3 Qe7 18.Reb1 Re8 19.Nc1 Qf6 20.Bc2 Nxc1 21.Rxc1 Nd7 22.Re1 h5 23.h3 h4 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Re1 Rxe1+ 26.Bxe1 Nf8 27.Qxb4 Bc4 28.Bf2 Qf4 29.Qe1 Ne6 30.b3 Ba6 31.Qe3 Qf6 32.Qe5 Qxe5 33.dxe5 g5 34.Bf5 Nf4 35.Bc5 Kg7 36.a4 Ne6 37.Bb6 Kh6 38.b4 Reference Games-Dickl,E]

4.d4 White chooses to defend the position with activity! Due to the lag in Black's development, White aims to open the center and maintain control over the d5 square. 4...Bb4 Black strikes back using active play as well, pinning a Knight on c3 and threatening to take the e4 pawn. However, I would like to mention that Black can also choose other options. For example, after 4...exd4?! 5.Qxd4 d6 6.Bf4! White is clearly better with a threat of O-O-O and e5. If instead, Black goes for 4...b5 5.dxe5! bxc4 6.exf6 Qxf6 7.Nf3 Bb4 8.O-O White would have a clear advantage due to Black's weakened pawn structure and inactive pieces on the Queenside. Additionally, if Black decides to play 4...d5?! White gains a much better position after 5.exd5 cxd5 6.Bb5 Nc6 7.dxe5 since Black cannot defend the d5 pawn anymore. 5.dxe5 White should not hesitate to open the center and can ignore Black's threat due to the weak Kingside, which will be exposed to our deadly attacks very soon! 5...Nxe4 6.Qg4 Due to Black's lag with development, White puts Black in trouble with an attack on the g7 square, at the same time, attacking the Knight on e4. It is obvious that White is ready for an aggressive approach and the Butchering! 6...d5 This might look like an uncomfortable move for White due to a double-attack on the White's Queen on g4, and the Bishop on c4. But one should not forget that g7 pawn is hanging in the air right now! Also, if you are questioning what happens if Black goes for 6...Nxc3?! , I would say that it would be a suspicious move, as after 7.Qxg7 Ne4 8.c3 Rf8 , White gains full control over the position and gets a huge initiative after 9.Bd3

Nxc3 10.a3 Be7 and 11.bxc3 , due to the fact that almost all of Black's pieces are locked on the back rank, whilst White aims to get activated with Nf3, Bh6, O-O.

7.Qxg7 With this significant intermediary move, White gives a hard time to Black, who needs to find out how to support the Rook on h8 or the pawn on f7. 7...Ke7 Even though 7...Ke7 looks unnatural, Black aims to connect the Queen and the Rook, and hopes to play Rg8, followed by Rg2, which would lead to a very sharp position. However, the move 7...Rf8 is also possible, and after 8. Bd3 Nxc3 White is clearly better thanks to the move 9.Bd2! taking the piece back next move, but Black's King will still be positioned in the center and exposed to an attack. 8.Bg5+ White shows no mercy with an attack on Black's exposed King, and forces Black to play the only possible moves!

8...Nxg5 9.Qxg5+ Ke8 10.Qg7 Once again, Black is forced to defend the Rook on h8, while White is ready to go for O-O-O, aiming to stop once for all the threat of dxc4.

10...Rf8 11.0-0-0 And while White has almost all the pieces activated and developed, Black is chained to the back rank, and it seems that there is no hope to move the King into safety any time soon. One should not forget that Black's h7 pawn is hanging, and it can hardly be defended, and White would have the unstoppable passed h-pawn, which will be most likely promoted to a Queen! If Black continues with 11...Bxc3 as it happened in a game Ruefenacht, M - Sicker, R GER email 2013, White gains a clearly better position after 12.bxc3 Qa5 13.Bd3 Qxc3 14.Ne2 Qa3 15.Kd2 and the pawn on h7 can not be defended anymore, and White will go for h4-h5 very soon!

11...Bxc3 12.bxc3 Qa5 13.Bd3 Qxc3 14.Ne2 Qa3+ 15.Kd2 Nd7 16.Bxh7 Qa5+ 17.Ke3 Qxa2 18.f4 Qa3+ 19.Kf2 Nc5 20.Nd4 Ne6 21.Nxe6 Bxe6 22.f5 Qc5+ 23.Kg3 Bd7 24.c4 b5 25.cxd5 cxd5 26.h3 Qe3+ 27.Kh4 Qf2+ 28.g3 Qc5 29.Rhe1 Qe7+ 30.Kh5 Bc6 31.f6 Qb4 32.e6 Reference Games-Ruefenacht,M

2...d6 3.Nc3 After White's 3.Nc3 or 3.d3 the position will transpose to lines covered within this course through 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 or 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6. More so, 3.Nf3 is always a possible answer for White here, and the Italian game will be reached, but without the possibility for Black to develop the dark-squared Bishop to c5, although Italian positions are not the theme of this book. 6) Odds and Ends-Odds and Ends: 2...d6

2...b5 Black chooses to play for activity and goes for what is known as the Anderssen's gambit! Black's mission here is to let White take the pawns while they actively develop and gain central control. However, that is not easy as it sounds! 3.Bxb5 Of course, White accepts the gift and aims to get the Bishop back on the a2-g8 diagonal from where it controls the f7 spot!

3...c6 As it was previously mentioned, Black aims to gain the center control after d5 while we need to

carry the Bishop back onto the most active diagonal a2-g8. 4.Ba4 One should not forget that immediate 4.Bc4 would be met with 4...d5 , which comes with a tempo for Black, while 4.Ba4! prevents Black's idea of d5. 4...Bc5 Black certainly does not want to play 4...d5 since after 5.exd5 Black would be forced to take the pawn with the Queen, and they can not accomplish anymore their idea of central control. In that manner, after 5...Qxd5 White gains a clear advantage after 6.Qf3! aiming to trade pieces with a pawn up, and now if Black tries 6...e4 7.Qe3 with the idea of Nc3 and f3, and Black would need to worry about the hanging e4 pawn. 5.Nf3 White strikes back with active development forcing Black to defend the weakened e5 pawn. White aims to go for simple ideas like O-O, c3, followed by d4 and full center control with a pawn up! 5...d6 6.0-0 Nf6 7.c3 Thanks to better development, White can ignore the attack on the e4 pawn wishing to gain an open position while the Black's King is exposed in the center. One should not forget that White's idea is to play d4- gaining the center control, followed by Re1! 7...Nxe4 8.d4 As we mentioned previously, White gives the pawn back to gain a huge activity and wants to create an attack on Black's exposed King. 8...Bb6 9.Re1 White is obviously better while Black has no time to conclude development due to a hanging Knight on e4. Moreover, moving the Knight away would result in the opening of the e-file for White's Rook, and one should not forget that Black's pawn on e5 is hanging, while Ke8 remains exposed in the center for the time being! 6) Odds and Ends-Odds and Ends: 2...b5 **2...Qh4** This suspicious move surprisingly scores well for Black, which tries to gain a position of the Patzer's opening, but Black is a tempo down. In that manner, White should not be afraid of this tricky move and should only think about the fast development! 3.Nc3 White goes for a natural developing move, defending the e4 pawn and threatening to play Nf3, exposing Black's King to an attack! 3...Bc5 Black keeps it tricky with a mate threat of 4...Qxf2! However, it would be best if you did not worry a lot about that, since White already has a development advantage, and it is only going to be increased! 4.Qe2 Once again, White actively defends the Black's threat of Qxf2 and aims to play 5.Nf3 with a double attack on the exposed Queen on h4 and undefended pawn on e5. 4...d6 This is basically the only resilient move for Black since 4...Nc6? would lead to a clear advantage for White after 5.Nf3 Qd8 and 6. Bxf7! followed by Qc4+ and a double attack on the King and Bishop on c5. White would be a clear pawn up after only six moves! 5.Nf3 White keeps developing with a tempo attack on Black's Queen, and with three developed light pieces, White is ready to castle and a strike in the center where the

Black's King is still stuck. Also, White will use the opportunity to attack the exposed Bishop on c5, which does not have any space to escape. 5...Qd8 No matter what square Black decides to escape to with the Queen, they would be met with the same response! 6.Na4 And White gains a clearly better position with all of the activity and an attack on Black's exposed Bishop on c5. One should not forget that all of the Black's pieces are locked on the back rank, while White is ready for O-O and striking in the center! Also, keep in mind by now the infamous princinple, we are about to get the Bishop pair advantage! 6) Odds and Ends-Odds and Ends: 2...Qh4

2...Qg5 Even though 2...Qg5? is considered as a bad move for Black; it can be very tricky and uncomfortable for White if you do not answer properly! It is quite interesting that my lower-rated students faced this move quite often, so get ready to learn its refutation precisely! 3.Nf3 White should simply continue with development and activation giving a double attack to the Black's exposed Queen and undefended pawn on e5! 3...Qxg2 Black practically is forced to proceed with 3...Qxg2 attacking the Rook on h1. If 3...Qe7 was played instead, White has a clear development advantage after 4. Nc3 c6 5.d4 gaining central control, and after 5...d6 6.Ng5! Black is forced to defend the f7 square with 6...Nh6 passing the initiative to White after 7.O-O! 4.Rg1 White simply attacks Black's exposed Queen and opens up opportunities for tactical engagement! 4...Qh3 5.Bxf7+ While Black went for tricky lines and collected pawns, White was actively developing and creating the environment for a nice tactical blow gaining a winning position after only five moves of play! 5...Kd8 Black can forget about castling, and they have issues with further development. One should not forget that 5...Kxf7? instead would lead to a whole Queen up for White after 6.Ng5! 6.Rg3 Once again White puts Black in trouble, how to find a proper square for the Queen? 6...Qh6 7.d4 And White gains a winning position after 7.d4! Black needs to think about the relocation of the Queen, with a terribly placed King in the center, while the e5 pawn is hanging, and will be captured with the forthcoming 8.Nxe5, followed by normal development with Bg5 and Nc3. 6) Odds and Ends-Odds and Ends: 2...Qg5

2...f5 Black might choose a wild play and enter the Calabrese countergambit, which is basically a King's gambit reversed. But do not worry, we are ready to strike back with an aggressive approach! 3.d4 White takes action in the center and opens the position, and Black is now forced to react with some of their central pawns action! This is usually the best strategy vs. gambit moves and players - on sharp moves - play even sharper and throw them off from their comfort

zone! 3...exd4 If Black decides to instead go for 3...fxe4 I think that you would be delighted to win the game after 4.Qh5 and Black loses a Rook after 4...g6 and 5.Qxe5! 4.Nh3 It is obvious that the light-squared Bishop on c4 dominates the light-squares and makes the f7-spot the most vulnerable for Black. That is why we try to punish our opponent as soon as possible and with the move 4.Nh3! White aims to play Ng5 but at the same time prepares himself for short castling! 4...Nf6 This is the most resilient move for Black, who attacks White's pawn on e4 . One should not forget that 4... fxe4 would lead to the already mentioned idea of 5.Qh5 , and Black loses a Rook after 5...g6 and 6.Qe5! Although, Black could also choose to play 4...Nc6 instead, but after 5.Ng5! White threatens to play Nf7! Black needs to answer with 5...Ne5 and after 6. Bxg8 Rxg8 White gains a massive initiative after 7.Qxd4 d6 8.Nc3 h6 and finally 9.Qd5! Rh8 10.Ne6 gives a clear advantage to White due to a hanging pawn on f5 which can not be defended anymore. 5.e5 White punishes Black for the late development and wild play. It is obvious that Black's Knight doesn't have so many options to jump away and escape an attack! 5...Ne4 Black might choose to centralize the Knight with 5...Ne4 or to go for 5...Ng4 instead and attack the pawn on e5 . However, after 5... Ng4 White can keep developing with 6.O-O and an idea of Re1, and after 6...Nc6 7.Re1 CC StartBracket CC Black cannot capture a pawn with 7...Ngxe5 or 7...Ncxe5 due to 8.f4 !CC EndBracket CC Of course, Black can try to continue with 7... Be7 instead, but after 8.Nf4! Ngxe5 White gains a clearly better position with 9.Bb3 and straightforward ideas of Nd5, Qh5, and c3. One should not forget that Black is not able to castle and faces lots of troubles due to pinned and exposed pieces. 6.0-0 While White developed the pieces and put a King into a safe zone, Black lags behind with the development and will face troubles after the forthcoming Re1 and Qh5! 6...Nc6 Black tries to follow up with development and threatens to take the e5 pawn. However, late development has consequences, as it will be shown soon. 7.Re1 White keeps with activation and puts all the pieces in a position to eye Black's King, which is exposed to an attack in the center! Ideas are Nd2, Nf4 followed by Qh5, in some positions even Rxe4!? 7...Nxe5 Although 7...Nxe5?! is not the happiest solution for Black, this is the move I mostly faced during Online games. I would say that 7... Be7 would be better instead, but it is hard for Black to pick that one since they cannot castle. Anyways, we would face that move with 8.Nf4 with a practically winning position, mainly due to the powerful light-squared Bishop! 8.Qh5+ And while Black went for collecting the pawns, White prepared for the attack on the centralized King!

Black is practically forced to block the check with 8...g6, and we will dive into the typical butchering position! 8...g6 9.Rxe4 And here it is! White sacrifices the Queen and punishes Black for their development delay! 9...gxh5 This is the most logical move for Black, although engines would say that the best answer is 9....d6 . Anyway, even after 9...d6 White is winning after 10.Re5! dxe5 and 11.Qe2 with two light-pieces for a Rook, which is considered to be an advantage. Of course, Black still faces development problems and can not castle any time soon. Also, one should not forget that 9...fxe4? is not possible due to 10.Qe5! and White takes full advantage with two pieces up after the forthcoming Qh8 . 10.Rxe5+ White keeps forcing Black to go for the only moves in the position! 10...Be7 11.Bg5 And White is clearly better after the forthcoming 11...-- 12.Rxe7 Qxe7 13.Bxe7 Kxe7 having the advantage of two minor pieces for a Rook! Also, one should not forget that Black pieces are all on the back rank and that it should take a lot to get some development harmony. Objectively, White should not have problems in the final position, but the proper technique should be shown still! 6) Odds and Ends-Odds and Ends: 2...f5

38 **4...Be7** Black refrains from the early confrontation in the center and wants to first complete the development with O-O. 5.0-0 We continue with development as well, and do not buy into Black's trick to take 5.Nxe5 due to a 5... Qa5+ when Black wins a piece! 5...Qc7 Black tries to remain as flexible as possible. He defends the e5-pawn and keeps the option of pushing d7-d5 in one go. However, the Queen appears somehow artificial on c7, since it is not a good square for the Queen in this system. 6.Re1 This is a useful move in the open games that are resembling the Ruy Lopez or the Italian pawn structure. White fortifies the e4 pawn and clears the f1-square for the Knight to be able to complete the maneuver of Nbd2-Nf1-Ng3. Given time, White can choose to advance with d4 or to transfer the Knight from b1 to the Kingside. 6...0-0 Black prepares to push d5 tucking the King to safety, away from the opposing White Rook on e1. 7.Nbd2 As it was previously mentioned, White wants to reposition the Knight to g3, after Nf1-Ng3. 7...d5 Black finally strikes in the center. After 8.exd5 Black's pawn on e5 will not be hanging due to a tempo attack on White's light-squared Bishop. 8.Bb3 White keeps the tension in the center for at least one move longer putting the Bishop to a safe b3-square. 8.exd5? would be a mistake as Black wins a tempo with 8...cxd5 and gains a space for the Knight to be developed at the wonderful c6-post. Now, White threatens exd5 followed by Ne5. 8...Nbd7 Since the c6 square is not available, Black is forced to develop the Knight on the less active

position to protect the e5 pawn which would be hanging after dxe5!

[8...dxe4 Black decides to release the central tension, but it is too early for such an action. This move is considered to be suspicious because it allows White to conquer the e4 outpost with a piece! 9.Nxe4 White aims to recapture with a piece on the e4 square, keeping the e-file semi-opened with pressure on the vulnerable e5 pawn. It is important to note that Black will not be able to move the f7 pawn due to a pin by the Bishop on b3, and that helps White to gain full control over the most important central squares. Nxe4 If Black tries to remain solid and compact 9...Nbd7 10.Ng3! is an excellent move that leaves Black all tangled up and gives a clear advantage to White. There is no good way for Black to prevent Nf5, and if Black's Rook leaves the f8 spot, then Ng5 comes in with a powerful impact! 10.Rxe4 It might be a bit strange to see the White's Rook on e4 after only 10 moves of play, but the Rook is perfectly safe in the center of the board, putting Black's pawn on e5 in trouble. Black needs to switch plans and defend the pawn, but none of the possible options give a satisfying option for Black. Bd6 With an idea to defend the central pawn, Black gives chances to White to clear the path for the Kingside attack. The pawn on f7 will be vulnerable and White can use the position of the Rook to swing it on the h-file! *(10...Bf6* Trying to play smart, Black moves the bishop away from the pins along the e-file and keeps the c8-h3 diagonal open for the Bishop on c8. *11.Bg5* White gives no respite, once again pressing the defending piece, this time the Bishop on f6. Black is practically forced to accept the trade, helping White to toggle pieces on the Kingside! *Bxg5* Do you think: 'Wait! This was a moment for Black to win the tempo by attacking the White Rook 11...Bf5 .'? Well, I would enjoy it so much if anyone played it against me! I would start with 12.Bxf6! Bxe4 13.dxe4 gxf6 14.Nh4 with an idea of Qh5, followed by Qh6 and Nf6, and a clearly better position for White thanks to pressure on the weak King and more active pieces! *12.Nxg5* Once again, the Queen is coming against the poorly defended King's flank, and after the forthcoming Qh5, Black will need to think about both the f7 and h7 vulnerable spots. *Bf5* Black tries to get a break by relocating the bishop to g6, supporting the f7 and h7 pawns, but nevertheless, White's attack will be overwhelming! *13.Re3* White steps back with an active move and keeps the idea of possibly swinging the Rook to the Kingside. After Qf3 and Rae1, doubling the Rooks on the semi-opened e-file, White will have an active position with a lot of threats, and one should not forget that Black still faces difficulties with development. *Nd7* Black attempts to rush more pieces into defense and develops the Knight on the most active square. However, the connection between the Queen on c7 and the pawn on f7 is broken now, and White will be able to benefit from it. If Black instead played 13...h6? as

it was seen in the game Nevednichy, V-Saric, A Nova Gorica 2005, White gains a winning position after 14.Nxf7 Rxf7 15.Qh5 with a double attack on Rd7 and Bf5, and after 15...g6 16. Qxh6 Qd6 White has a decisive advantage with an exchange up after 17.Bxf7 Kxf7 18.Qh7 Kf8 19.Qxb7 winning another exchange forcing Black to resign! *14.Qf3* White develops Queen with a tempo attack on the Bishop on f5 and keeps the pressure on the f7 square! *Bg6 15.h4* After this key advance, Black's position is simply falling apart. There is no good defense against h4-h5 and White dominates the position. If Black continues with 15...h6 , White will not blink, and after 16.h5! the f7 spot will be crushed. If 15...Nf6 then simply 16.Qg3 with 16...-- 17. Rae1 , and White is clearly better with a huge attack and great activity! 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d*;* *10...Nd7* Aiming to protect the threatened pawn, Black will face issues with the pinned Bishop! White is ready to react in the center! *11.d4* This motive is commonly seen. As soon as Black disturbs the eye-contact between the Queen on c7 and Bishop on e7, the central advance comes in strong! *Bd6* Black still tries to hold, but White can trade some material and still keeps the strong pressure on f7, h7, and e5! *12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Nxe5* This exchange clears the way for the White Queen. *Bxe5 14.Qh5* With centralized pieces and a clear idea of Rh4! White puts huge pressure on Black's overloaded pieces! *Bd6* If Black chooses to play 14...Bf6 to prevent Rh4, White can first win a tempo by attacking the Queen with 15. Bf4 , and then continue overloading with 16.Rd1 and 16.-- 17.Bd6 . *15.Rh4* It is obvious that all White's pieces are eyeing Black's lone King and the pressure on the h-file will decide the outcome of the game! *h6* Black has no other choice but to block an attack on the h-file. However, that does not stop White to continue with the overwhelming attack! *16.Bxh6* Black lost control, and White dominates the position. Thanks to the active pieces and light-squared killer Bishop which constantly pressures Black's King, White uses the opportunity to open the Kingside and to conclude the game with sacrifice! *gxh6 17.Qg6+* There is no defense from the forthcoming Rh6# and the game is over after only 18 moves of play! 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d*)* 11.Ng5 We attack both f7 and h7 and clear the way for the Queen! Bf5 Black strikes back and tries to win a defensive tempo. However, White is not impressed with this threat! 12.Qf3 Who needs a Rook! Queen and Knight provide a strong battery! Bg6 *(12...Bxe4* Grabbing the material leads to quick disaster as it will be shown within only a few moves! *13.Qxe4* With pressure on f7 and h7 squares, eyeing the Black's King, White has full compensation for an exchange. Black will not be able to hold all the weak spots and still faces issues to develop properly! *g6 14.Qh4* Black was forced to weaken dark squares around the King and White swings the Queen over there forcing

Black to push pawns around the King to make it weaker! *h5* *15.Nxf7* Whilst Black lags with development, White opens the Black's King gaining a winning position after the forthcoming Qf6! The light squared Bishop proves to be the most important piece of White's attack, as it was mentioned throughout the course! *Rxf7* *16.Qf6* White uses the light-squared Bishop to pin Black's King and gains a winning position with a tremendous threat of 16...-- 17.Bh6 , followed by 17...-- 18.Qg7! One should not forget that Black can not unchain from the pins, and White can continue afterward with Qxg6! 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d*)* 13.Re2 Transferring the Bishop to g6 only briefly helps Black, as then the flank advance h4-h5 comes in with even greater effect! White's idea is simple afterward, with a clear development advantage after Bd2 and Rae1, White will pressure e5, improving attack with possible Bc3. Very interesting would be 13.Nxh7!? Followed by 13...Bxh7 14.Rg4 where White would build up a strong attack afterward mainly thanks to Bh6 idea. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d]

9.d4 This strike clears up the center in White's favor. The key fact is that when placing the Knight on d7 Black interrupted the link between the Queen and the Bishop on e7, more so the Bishop will be indirectly exposed to an attack by Rook on e1! 9...exd4 Black cannot hold the center as White was threatening to win the pawn with 10. exd5 and 11.dxe5 .

[9...dxe4 As it will be shown within this line, clearing all the central pawns will not help Black's cause. 10.Nxe4 White has a clear initiative here with two different options for a Knight maneuver. White can go for either Ng3-Nf5 or Ng5, depending on Black's reaction! exd4 11.Qxd4 White centralizes the Queen with the idea of playing Bg5 and putting more pressure against Nf6 and Be7. Nxe4 12.Qxe4 Whilst White centralized and activated all of the pieces, Black's pieces are clumsy on the 7th and 8th ranks. Bd6 13.Be3 With simple development, White proceeds with the centralization plan after Rad1 and Bd4. All the pieces will be actively positioned, eyeing Black's King which does not have a lot of support. Nf6 14.Qh4 Black improved the Knight into a defending piece, but White does not step back and goes forward for an attack! The Queen reaches a desirable position on the h7 square, pressuring a vulnerable h7 pawn. One should not forget that White has a simple clever plan to remove Black's defender of the King after Bd4! Bf5 Black logically rushes to reinforce h7, but that is not that easy as it sounds. 15.Bd4 Due to a deadly threat of Bf6, Black's only try might be 15...Be7 , which is met by 16.Be5 Qc8 17. Rad1 and total domination for White who has all the control of the open files, as well as the space control. White is clearly better as it could be seen in the game of Vorobiov, E in Kramatorsk 2001, against none else but in that time 11-years old Sergey Karjakin, the future World

Championship Challenger. Nd7 16.Rad1 Rad8 17.Qg5 Bg6 18.h4 Bf4 19.Qg4 c5 20.h5 cxd4 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.Rxd4 Bd6 23.Qxg6 Nf6 24.Red1 Qb6 25.Qd3 Bc7 26.c3 Rxd4 27.cxd4 Qd6 28.g3 Ng4 29.Qe4 Nf6 30.Qxb7 Rb8 31.Qxa7 Ng4 32.Qc5 Qd7 33.Qg5 Rb5 34.Ne5 Nxe5 35.dxe5 Qe8 36.e6 fxe6 37.Bxe6+ Kh8 38.Rd5 Rxd5 39.Bxd5 Bd8 40.Qf5 g6 41.Qe6 Reference Games-Vorobiov,E]

10.exd5 With lots of trades in the center, White aims to gain as many tempos as possible, forcing Black to play multiple times with the same pieces, which is considered to be bad, especially in an early middlegame.

10...Bc5 Black is forced to defend the hanging d4 pawn, while White will continue to open the position, unblocking the light-squared Bishop! 11.dxc6 bxc6 12.Ne4 By renewing the pressure on the Bishop and d4-pawn, White gains more time to build up the powerful attack! 12...Nxe4 13.Rxe4 The Rook gets a perfect place with the ability to join the Kingside carnage! White is prepared to toggle the pieces on the Kingside with Rh4, followed by Ng5 or Bg5!

13...Nf6 Black is forced to support the King with his pieces, at the same time preparing for further development. White is currently not interested in the d4 pawn, since it might cause troubles due to activation of Black after Rd8.

14.Rh4 All of White's pieces joined the attack! White is ready for a brutally effective plan of Bg5, followed by Qd3, and it is questionable if Black will be able to hold the pressure!

14...Bg4 Black is forced to react somehow, and he chooses the most active move. However, that does not stop White to continue with a great attack! 15.Bg5 Knight on f5 is recognized as the only defensive piece, and White aims to destroy it! Both Bishop on g4 and Knight on d6 are hanging!

15...Qd6 16.Bxf6 Bxf3 Black puts the last hopes to force trades with this intermediate move. But of course, White will not accept that offer!

17.Qd3 White replies with his own intermediate move threatening mate with Qh7! Black is once again forced to defend with pawns, but that is not helpful! 17...h6 For all of you who wondered what would happen in the case of 17... g6 , this is a very nice moment to check your skills and imagination - 18.Qxg6! hxg6 followed by 19. Rh8! Checkmate! 18.Rxh6 White removes the final obstacle and the game will conclude with a checkmate after 18....gxh6 19. Qg6!# as it happened in a game between Stubbs, M-Warnest, S ICCF email 2007. 18...gxh6 19.Qg6# Reference Games-Stubbs,M

4...d6 5.0-0 Be7 Black chooses the more cautious plan of development, aiming to castle before starting the fight in the center. With a solid position, White does not face any threats or dangers, and continues with nice positional play with initiative in the center! 6.Bb3 True, the Bishop is not attacked, so why are we wasting a valuable tempo on this

retreat? For many reasons, this is a very useful prophylactic move. First of all, the Bishop is no longer exposed to direct attacks by means of d5 or b5. In addition, since Black is not playing d5, White will advance his own pawn to d4 and prevents all of the possible Nxe4-d5 tactics. 6...0-0 Black continues with the plan of castling quickly putting the King in a safe zone. 7.c3 This would be a typical Italian Game with CC StartFEN CC r1bqkbnr/pppp1ppp/2n5/4p3/4P3/5N2/PPPP1PPP/RNBQKB1R w KQkq - 2 3CC EndFEN CC 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 , where Black instead of Nc6 has a pawn on c6! It does bear some bonuses for White, in particular as there is no longer the possibility for Black to play Na5 harassing our Bishop forcing Bc4-Bb3, and Black has no good control of the center and the d4-square. 7...Nbd7 Black prepares for more active play with Nc5 . If Black first brought the Bishop out with 7...Bg4 White would simply follow Ruy Lopez plan with 8.h3 Bh5 9.Re1 clearing the f1-square for a Knight maneuver with Nd2-Nf1-Ng3 and after 9...Nbd7 10.Nbd2 we emerge with a small advantage and follow-up wih the previously mentioned plan Nf1-Ng3. White has a safe spot for the light-squared Bishop, and after any Nc5, the answer would be Be2 additionally protecting the e4 pawn. 8.Re1 White goes for a good prophylactic move, defending the e4 pawn and prepares for the d4 central approach! 8...Nc5 Black could also go for 8...Qc7 but that does not obstruct White's plans and after 9.d4 ± White enjoys the better version of the Philidor defense thanks to the pawn being on c3 instead of the Knight. The usual Philidor resource 9...exd4 here brings no fruit as White can recapture with the pawn with 10.cxd4 , maintaining the full center. 9.Bc2 White keeps the light-squared Bishop safe and prepares for further development. 9...Bg4 This pin is the most serious attempt to prevent or slow down the d4-advance. The odd-looking 9...Ne6 blocks the light-squared Bishop but does not prevent the central advance with d4. The Knight would make sense on e6 only if it adds pressure on d4 or if the d-pawns are already traded. In that manner, White does not need to hurry with d4 and after 10.Nbd2 has a small advantage with the idea of Nf1-Ng3. If Black instead goes for 9...Qc7 White continues developing normally with 10.Nbd2 and with the previously mentioned plan of Nf1-Ng3, putting Black's light-squared Bishop in an uncomfortable position. 10.Nbd2 White certainly does not want to improve Black's Knight on c5, if it gets relocated to e6. For that reason, White keeps an option of d4 but does not hurry with it. 10...Ne6 11.h3 We start a hunting the light-squared Bishop and we will continue with the idea of Nf1, followed by Ng3! 11...Bh5 12.Nf1 Due to Black's clumsy light-squared

Bishop, White should have in mind the well-known idea of Ng3 or even positionally aggressive g4 followed by Ng3. This is a typical Ruy Lopez or Italian idea against the Bishop on h5 known from the time's of Steinitz! 12...Nd7 Black aims to force a trade after Ng5 or Bg5, since the simplification of position would be beneficial for him. However, that does not stop White's ideas.

[12...Ne8 Black wants to gain trades after Bg5 or Ng5, but also aims to relocate the Knight to c7 controlling d5 square. However, Black's heavy pieces are now disconnected on the back-rank and that limits Black's options. 13.Ng3 White conquers the main squares on the Kingside and forces Black to trade the light-squared Bishop. Bxf3 Of course, one could ask a question why is Black forced to trade the Bishop, and the answer is that 13...Bg6 is much inferior and mixes up Black's plans. First of all, occupying the f5-square gives a clear advantage to White CC StartBracket CC for example 14. Nf5 CC EndBracket CC, but the other option 14.Be3 is convincing as well, and now the planned 14...Ng5 is strongly met by 15.Nh2! with idea 15...-- 16.h4 . Otherwise, 14...Bg5 is losing to 15.Nxg5 Nxg5 16.h4! and 16...-- 17.h5 on the next move. 14.Qxf3 White gained the Bishop pair advantage and if Black does not go for the mentioned idea of trades through the c1-h6 diagonal, White has a clearly better position. Bg5 15.Bxg5 It is a fact that Black succeeded in the Bishops trade, but his Knights will remain passive without outposts. Nxg5 *(15...Qxg5* Black prefers to keep the knight on e6 keeping an eye on the f4-square. If Black decides to continue with 15...Nxg5 16.Qe3 Ne6 White activates and continues development with 17.Rad1 Qb6 18. Qxb6 axb6 White is at least slightly better after 19.a3 N8c7 20.Nf5 when Black's Knights have no good active outposts, whilst White can plan pawn breaks with d4 or g3-f5 and the light-squared Bishop will be a huge influence on the a2-g8 diagonal as it could be seen in the game Lau, R-David, A Budapest 1992. *16.Rad1* With this simple developing move White claims a slight advantage. White has plans to push d4 seizing the center and then transferring the Bishop to b3 since there are no longer Nc5 harassments. Black pieces are clumsy, in particular the Queen and the Knight on e8. Black's Rooks are disconnected and if Black continues with 16...Nf6 then 17.Nf5! with the idea 17...-- 18.h4 is very strong as the Queen is poorly placed. If instead, Black goes for 16...Nf4 , White will not bother delaying his plans of 17.d4 with Nf1 next and preparing g3-h4 to knock Black's pieces back. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d*)* 16.Qe3 Ne6 17.Rad1 Qb6 18.Qxb6 axb6 19.a3 N8c7 20.Nf5 Rfd8 21.Bb3 g6 22.Ne3 Nc5 23.Ba2 b5 24.g3 Kg7 25.f3 N5e6 26.Kg2 h5 27.h4 f6 28.Nc2 Nc5 29.Re2 Kf8 30.f4 exf4 31.gxf4 Re8 32.Kf3 d5 33.exd5 Rxe2 34.Kxe2 Re8+ 35.Kf3 cxd5 36.Ne3 d4 37.cxd4 N5e6 38.d5 Nd4+ 39.Kf2 Rd8 Reference Games-

Lau,R]

13.g4 Of course, it was possible to continue 13.Ng3 like in similar lines, when Black has to give away the light-squared Bishop and it would certainly secure White small but long-lasting advantage. But, when the World champion Magnus Carlsen plays 13.g4! as it is shown here, we should follow his choice! He intended to keep the Knight on f3 and make a so-called 'non-linear exchange' on g5 as it will be shown soon! 13...Bg6 14.Ng3 White relocated the Knight on an active square and prepares for a central break with d4 as well as a typical Kingside aggressive idea with Nf5! White relocated the Knight on an active square and prepares for a central break with d4 as well as a typical Kingside aggressive idea with Nf5! Full line can be found here. 14...Ng5 Black could also try to trade with 14...Bg5 but after 15.Nxg5! Nxg5 16.Kg2! White is slightly better with a safe King and idea of d4 which provides full central control and the Bishop pair advantage. 15.Bxg5 This is the non-linear exchange! White decides to trade a Bishop for a Knight instead of maybe a more logical Knight for a Knight. This way, White avoids to trade two pairs of pieces and keeps more material and more options on the board! 15...Bxg5 16.d4 White builds a fortress in the center, and Black's Bishop pair is blocked due to a clumsy positioned light squared Bishop on g6. Although White pushed pawns around the King, White's King is perfectly safe since Black can not reach it! 16...Bf4 Black still insists to trade pieces and to reveal more space for maneuvres. Instead 16...Bf6 would be more passive and after 17.Qd2 h6 18.Kg2 White is slightly better with an idea of 19.Rad1 and a patient build-up behind the spatial advantage. 17.Ne2 White trades on their own terms, aiming to go for Nf4! 17...Qf6 18.Kg2 As it could be seen in a game between Carlsen, M-Wei, Y Wijk aan Zee 2017, White takes a brief moment to protect Nf3. White will proceed with 18...-- 19.Nxf4 Qxf4 20.Qc1! Qxc1 21.Raxc1 . After the Rook comes to d1 Black will not be able to hold the center due to the dxe5 threat. And if Black blinks first with exd4, then White recaptures with the Knight. The Bishop on g6 will be very passive compared to its counterpart on c2. 18...exd4 19.Nfxd4 Rfe8 20.Nxf4 Qxf4 21.f3 Nb6 22.Qc1 Qxc1 23.Raxc1 d5 24.e5 Nd7 25.f4 Bxc2 26.Rxc2 Nc5 27.Re3 Rad8 28.Kf3 Ne4 29.b4 g5 30.c4 c5 31.Nb5 gxf4 32.Kxf4 cxb4 33.cxd5 Reference Games-Carlsen,M

39 **5...Bg4** Although this temporary pin guards the e5-pawn and also Black got his Bishop out before playing Nbd7, it is suspicious since he will be swiftly forced to surrender the Bishop pair! 6.h3 Black is immediately forced to give up the light-squared Bishop. White can gain a slight advantage with 6.exd5 as well and after 6...cxd5 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nc6 White keeps up with the plan to attack Black's

center 9.Nc3 Nd4 10.Qg3 with a slight advantage thanks to a perfectly placed Queen on g3 that controls the g7-spot and stops Black to defend dark-squared Bishop. White might continue here with Bg5, renewing the pressure against d5, as well as with Ba4!?, which might be annoying for Black!

6...Bxf3

[6...Bh5 If Black stubbornly tries to keep Bishop here, this retreat is rather weak and Black will have to give the material for little or no compensation. 7.exd5 White reveals from the possibly hanging pawn and prepares to capture on e5! cxd5 8.g4 Breaking the pin and forcing Black to attempt the speculative sacrifice. Nxg4 Clumsy 8...Bg6 instead would give easy advantage to White after 9. Nxe5 and White has a clear pawn up without any issues! 9.hxg4 Of course, we should not hesitate to accept the suspicious sacrifice! Bxg4 10.Rg1 With a very important move White tries to release the pin and forces Black to react with the Bishop. h5 11.Nc3 With a piece for two pawns, White needs to stay active! With development continuation, White, at the same time, attacks the d5 pawn! Bb4 Although this pin looks very uncomfortable, White has no issues after another development move with possible tactical engagements! 12.Bd2 Once again, the most important Black's central pawn is hanging! Bxc3 Of course, if Black instead goes for 13...d4 White would be happy to take control over a beautiful outpost with Ne4 and clear advantage with perfectly active light-squared Bishop! 13.Bxc3 d4 14.Bd2 Not only that once again the light-squared Bishop got control over the longest possible diagonal, but White prepares for development after Qe2 and O-O-O and there will be no problems anymore! Just a piece up and winning position! Nc6 Of course after 14...Qf6 15.Rg3 White easily defends the Knight and continues with the same plan of Qe2 and O-O-O. 15.Qe2 Qf6 16.Rg3 White is ready for O-O-O and to gain control over light-squares after Qe4, at the same time getting away from the pin. Black can not easily use the passed h-pawn and White has time to consolidate with a decisive advantage, as it could be seen in a game Sadler,M-Jowett, P Blackpool 2016. 0-0 17.Qe4 Bf5 18.Qh4 Qxh4 19.Nxh4 Ne7 20.Bb4 Reference Games-Sadler,M]

7.Qxf3 White got the Bishop pair and the Queen landed on the excellent square from which it can press the d5-pawn, support g4 ideas against both f7 weakness and the Knight on f6, as well as it has just cleared d1-square for Nc3, Bd2/Bg5 followed by O-O-O. 7...dxe4 Black has to do something about the d5-pawn. Otherwise, White would simply overwhelm him with Bg5 and Nc3, and there will be no defense anymore! 8.dxe4 Nbd7 Black continues with a normal developing move that also looks for an opportunity to jump on c5, attacking b3 and e4. 9.c3 At this point, White wants to keep the Bishop pair on the board, and prepares a shelter for the Bishop from b3 to come to c2, defending

e4 at the same time. 9...Nc5 10.Bc2 As it was previously mentioned, Bishops are safe now, and White can continue with normal development having the long-term advantage of the Bishop pair. 10...Qc7 11.Nd2 Be7 12.Nf1 This Knight usually goes to g3 CC StartBracket CC or e3 CC EndBracket CC , eyeing to jump on the nice f5 outpost, sometimes even on c4 and g4 CC StartBracket CC from e3 CC EndBracket CC . White's position looks slightly better mainly thanks to the Bishop pair. Of course, everything up to this point has been analyzed in the theoretical part of the course. White had a simple middlegame as it was seen in the Edwards, J - White, D APCT Corr. USA 1996. With the central pawn structure stable and no chances for a quick attack against the centralized King, White does not need to hurry with the castle and can instead improve the placement of the pieces. The Knight goes to g3 CC StartBracket CC or e3 CC EndBracket CC eyeing to jump on the nice f5 outpost. White's position is reminiscent of the great version of the Ruy Lopez with the Bishop pair and at least a slight advantage at this early point of the middlegame. 12...0-0-0 Black completes his development and with the last move prevents Ne3, due to Nd3. Also, the decision to play 0-0-0 shows that he was not ready to allow attack on the Kingside. 13.Ng3 Threatens Nf5. Interestingly enough, in the case of logical 13...g6 , White would have lethal 14.Bg5! with huge initiative since the f7 pawn looks already very weak. 13...Ne6 14.Nf5 Every Ruy Lopez or Italian player should be more than happy with the Knight being positioned on f5! White has a wide variety of possibilities such as Ne7 CC StartBracket CC with the Bishop pair advantage CC EndBracket CC or Be3 followed by a4 and b4 with possible Queenside attack afterward. 14...Bf8 15.Be3 A logical follow-up of previously made moves by White. White would like to go for a4-a5 with the idea of Queenside expansion as well as Ba7 possibility. 15...g6 16.Ng3 The knight on f6 is threatened and this is the precious tempo for White to carry on with initiative with 0-0. 16...Bg7 In my opinion, even more, logical was probably 16...Be7 which would keep an eye on the Knight on f6 as well as controlling the Queenside and diagonal a3-f8. 17.0-0 It is time to draw the line! White has completed his development very successfully, with good control of the center, potentially powerful Bishop pair, but more importantly, a strong Queenside attack in the way that happened in this game! That is exactly the reason why I chose this game! 17...h5 18.a4 Nice move that goes along well with Be3, because all of a sudden, two ideas become possible: a5 followed by Ba7 or Rfb1 followed by b4. 18...h4 19.Ne2 Our Knight on e2 does not have any specific role, but it is certainly better than on g3, where it was

limited without any future. 19...Kb8 20.a5 c5 I believe that this move could only help White's main idea coped with Rfb1 and b4, making it smoother and easier. 21.Rfb1 b4 is about to happen and looks like White's attack becomes unstoppable. I do not see the way for Black to stop the attack! 21...Rd6 22.b4 After pretty extensive preparation, White has finally launched an attack! All of a sudden, Rooks on a1 and b1 get a better-attacking role and the Bishop on e3 looks way more active! From my point of view, lately, I am of opinion, with the good placement of pieces and logical development, the side who runs the attack has way better chances and richer attacking opportunities if all these conditions are fulfilled, rather than just forcing some crazy sacrifices! 22...cxb4 23.Rxb4 Ka8 24.Rab1 Nd8 25.Bb3 Finally, even the light-squared Bishop gets into an attacking stance! 25...Ne8 26.Ba4 Qb8 27.Nc1 Even that 'famous' Knight on g3 has improved its position. Now, Nb3-Nc5 becomes quite realistic even Qf3 will change its destination and go to e2 which is going to create further pressure on the Queenside! 27...Rf6 Black, in lack of good options, even helps White to keep on improving his pieces. That usually happens, when you conduct your initiative well and leave your opponent without proper defensive and counterattacking resources. 28.Qe2 Nd6 29.Bb5 a6 30.Ba4 Qc7 31.Rxb7 Reference Games-Edwards,J A well-conducted attack by White! Everything started with the Bishop pair advantage and more than typical Knight 'journey' Nb1-Nd2-Ng3. An attempt by Black to avoid attack on the Kingside by castling Queenside did not work fine enough as this game is an example that should show you how to break your opponent's Queenside defense when they castle there!

5...Qc7 As mentioned in similar lines throughout the book, placing the Queen on c7 to protect the e5-pawn seems unnatural to me. Particularly as in such a way the d5-pawn loses protection. 6.Nc3 Of course, White will take the advantage of the fact that the Black's Queen has left the d-file and immediately pounce on the d5-pawn. 6...dxe4 Black has to release the central tension; otherwise White will get to play Bg5, O-O, and Re1 and inflict even greater damage. If 6...d4 7.Ne2 ± with the plan of playing Ng3, O-O, Nh4, f4. The Queen looks very odd on c7, as White's c3-break will come with even greater force, as shown in the game Siegfried, W-Blankenship, J ICCF email 2015.

[6...d4 7.Ne2 Bd6 8.Ng5 0-0 9.Ng3 h6 10.h4 hxg5 11.hxg5 Reference Games-Siegfried,W]

7.Nxe4 It is of crucial importance to remove the Knight on f6 which is Black's good defender, having the options of Qh5 and Qf3 to directly attack the f7-pawn. 7...Nxe4 Black is practically forced to accept this trade since development moves such as 7...Be7 would face 8.Ng3! and White will continue with normal

development of O-O and Re1, putting pressure on the exposed e5 pawn. 8.dxe4 Too weak, too slow is 8...Be7 This is a suspicious move by Black who tries to be fast with castling, but actually the connection between the Queen on c7 and f7 pawn is broken now, which allows White to be fast with an action on the Kingside!

[8...Bg4 Black limits the scope of the Knight on f3, not allowing it to compromise the f7 and h7 squares after Ng5. 9.h3 It is important to immediately challenge the Black Bishop. If Black chooses to give Bishop pair with a trade over the f3-square, we will follow one line of the attack, and on the other hand, if he delays with 9...Bh5 , then we will have the g4-advance in the crucial moments! Bh5 As it was mentioned if Black went for 9...Bxf3 10.Qxf3 White would have a clear advantage of the Bishop pair, and on the other side, Black cannot develop his pieces in a regular fashion with Be7 or Nd7, due to the double attack on f7. If he continues with 10...Na6 aiming to play Nc5 , White has a simple 11.a3! ± securing the continuing presence of the Bishop on the long a2-g8 diagonal, altogether with a long-lasting advantage of Bishop pair and great activity. 10.Qe2 White prepares development with Be3 and long castle, and looks for a good moment to launch the g4-advance. Nd7 11.Be3 Not only that White follows up with development but also prevents Nc5 aimed against White's main asset - Bishop pair! Nc5 Black finally came to the desirable point, forcing White to give up on the Bishop pair advantage. However, one should not forget that Black lost many tempos to get here, and White will be able to use development advantage to create active play now! If instead, Black goes for 11...Be7 12.a3 would be a good answer, creating a shelter for the light-squared Bishop, and after 12...O-O-O 13.g4! Bg6 14.O-O-O White has a nice initiative with a direct threat of Ng5, followed by pressure on the light-squared Bishop with g4 and h4. One should not forget that Black's pawn on a7 is also hanging, and Black can not easily capture the hanging e4-pawn. 12.Bxc5 It is still up to White to choose which Bishop to give away to benefit more from the position! As Black will not be able to castle long, then the f7-pawn becomes a more valuable target and for that reason, we choose to keep the light-squared Bishop on the board. Bxc5 13.0-0-0 And White is slightly better as Black cannot castle 13...O-O? 14.g4! with the idea h4-h5 and Black is practically lost. The light-squared Bishop on b3 is extremely powerful and puts pressure on the vulnerable f7-pawn. Probably the best option for Black to fight for equal chances is to give away the Bishop pair with Bxf3, but White will then rely on the axiom that the combination of the Queen and the opposite-colored Bishop favors the attacking side. 1) Bishop's Opening 2... Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d]

9.Ng5 Black faces lots of issues with development now and with hanging f7 pawn. 9...Bxg5 Black has to exchange the powerful attacking piece, since O-O would leave both

f7 and h7 spots undefended after the forthcoming Qh5! 10.Bxg5 After this trade White gains a clear long-term advantage of the Bishop pair in an open position. Meanwhile, Black lags with development without being able to castle and no active minor pieces. 10...Na6 To fight for equality, Black needs to get rid of the White's Bishop pair, aiming to play Nc5 to remove light-squared Bishop, but that is not easy as it sounds! 11.Be3 Of course, White guards the Bishop pair and improves the position of the dark-squared Bishop, preparing for further development. 11...0-0 12.Qd2 White chooses to go for O-O-O and attack on the Kingside! Of course, 12.O-O would be a good move as well, but according to my chess style, that is just too peaceful. 12...Qe7 Black still tries to force a trade of Bishops, either with Nc5 or Be6. 13.Qc3 Once again White prevents Black's threats and defends the Bishop pair. With Qc3 not only that we stopped Nc5, but also Be6 is not possible due to a hanging pawn on e5! 13...Re8 14.0-0-0 Everything up to this point has been analyzed in the theoretical part of the course. White reaches a clearly better position with plenty of attacking motives, including f3 which supports central e4 pawn, and the advance of the h-pawn with h4-h5-h6, altogether with the possibility to double the Rooks on the d-file. The Queen and the Bishop pair are dominantly limiting the active scope of the Black pieces. World champion Magnus Carlsen won from this position in only 13 more moves after, and I recommend you to check the game Carlsen, M-Wang, Y Riadh 2017. 14...Nc7 Black is looking for a possible Queenside expansion with either a5, Nb5 or Qf6 followed by Be6 15.Rd3 A strong idea that keeps d2 square open in the case of 15...Nb5 16.Qd2. 15...Qf6 Black defends pawn on e5 and hopes for Be6 to deprive White of the Bishop pair. In the meantime, Carlsen just develops and does not care much about the Bishop's pair advantage, but fights for full activity and a better middlegame where he keeps d2 square open in the case of 15...Nb5 16.Qd2 16.f3 Typical Carlsen move. White continues to improve his position, while Black desperately takes certain measures about fighting against the Bishop pair, open d-file, and the weak diagonal g1-a7. 16...Ne6 In my opinion, in an already difficult position, Black does not follow logical ideas in the position, like 16...Be6 and goes for this mistake which shows that he does not have any obvious plan but tries to defend move by move. Once someone said, 'it is even better to have a wrong plan, than not to have one!' 17.Rd6 Carlsen penetrates and without much hesitation takes the strong d6 square, pins the Knight on e6 and Queen on f6, the Bishop on c8 seems passive too. 17...g6 18.Rhd1 Qg7 If one has to centralize a Queen like this during the game, everyone can come up

with a logical conclusion, White is nearly technically winning! 19.Qd2 Tripling heavy pieces along the d-file and threatens Bh6 at some point. 19...h5 20.g3 Cuts off any Nf4 idea and could prepare for f4 by himself 20...Nc7 21.Bh6 Qh7 22.Rd8 Bh3 23.Rxa8 Nxa8 24.Bg5 A funny position that shows how strong is Magnus Carlsen. Even though he was not up materially, he was completely winning. Open d-file fully under his control, the Bishop pair and on top of all that a 'locked' Queen on h7 and 'angled' Knight on a8, as well as the inability to do something active with Re8 - Sad position for Black! 24...Nc7 25.Qa5 Ne6 26.Bxe6 Bxe6 27.Rd8 Reference Games-Carlsen,M Complete domination by the World champion!

5...Nbd7 A normal developing move that also protects e5. However, I am always feeling skeptical when this Knight blocks the development of the Bishop on c8 and the contact between the Queen and d5-pawn. We will see the consequences soon! 6.0-0 First of all, castling is always useful as White wants to place the Rook on e1 , indirectly pressuring the central e5 pawn! Right now, there is an obvious threat of 6...-- 7.exd5 followed by Re1 or Nc3 which pressures the d5-pawn and makes Black's center quite exposed and weak. 6...Bd6 Not only that Black goes for development, but they aim to support the e5-pawn as well.

[6...Be7 This development is also possible but it is meek. Not only that the Bishop is neglecting the e5-pawn, but it also blocks the e-file if Black would need a quick Re8. 7.exd5 White immediately punishes Black's passive development and makes the e5 pawn a juicy target after the forthcoming Re1! cxd5 8.Re1 With an active development White immediately threatens the e5 pawn. It is questionable if Black can defend it now. 0-0 Luring White to take the bait on e5. *(8...Qc7* Black decides to defend the pawn, but that does not stop us to grab it as Black is late with castling and there is a mighty pin with Bf4 afterwards! *9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.Bf4* Black is stretched on all sides, like a ninja taking a hit in the 'Kill Bill' movie! *Nfg4 11.Nc3* It seemed that after 10... Nfg4 Black defended it all but White calmly collects the important d5-pawn. The piece will not get away, Black can't hold onto it! *Be6 12.Nxd5 Bxd5 13.Bxd5* And after the trade, White has two pawns for a piece with a clear advantage since Black's Knight on g4 hangs and we have a direct threat of Qxg4! As mentioned before, Black can not defend a piece, and White will slide into a nice position with a decisive material advantage! 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d*)* 9.Nc3 With a simple developing move, White forces the d-pawn advance when the long a2-g8 diagonal will reopen for the light-squared Bishop, and the central pawns will become immobile. There is no need to be greedy for the e5-pawn, since after 9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.Rxe5?! Bd6! 11.Re2 Bc7 Black has an excellent version of the Ruy Lopez Marshall Attack with the full compensation for the pawn. d4

10.Ne2 Black's central pawns once again became targets. White has a simple plan of Ng3-looking over e4 and f5 outposts, with an idea of c3- undermining the Black's center. With active pieces comparing to Black's poor development, White has a clear advantage here. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d]

7.exd5 Like in many instances when the Black Knight is on d7, White uses development advantage to harass Black's central pawns! 7...cxd5 Even though it looks that Black established full center control, the fact is that d5 and e5 pawns are vulnerable and will be targets of White's attacks!

[7...Nxd5 This is considered a suspcious move by Black since White can immediately strike in the center now! 8.d4 e4 If Black instead went for development with 8...O-O 9.Bg5! would provoke the weakening with f6, and White would follow with Bh4–Bg3, Re1 with huge initiative and activity. 9.Ng5 It is an early stage and Black is already over-extended. The pawn on e4 is hanging and White has tactics with Nf7-c4-c5 at his disposal. N7f6 Have in mind that Black can not go for 9...f5?! due to 10.c4 and huge advantage due to the forthcoming c5! 10.c4 And with the previously mentioned idea of Nxf7 followed by a discovered check with c5, White reaches a clearly better position. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d]

8.Nc3 White continues with active development and forces Black to advance with the d5-pawn. 8...d4 Black practically goes for the only way to keep the pawn. Stubbornly defending d5 leaves e5 unprotected so 8...Nb6?! would give a clear advantage to White after easy 9. Re1 . 9.Nb5 This is a very useful move in many lines. Black's dark-squared Bishop has to keep contact with the e5-pawn in order to protect it and White will use that to transfer the Bishop to the a3-f8 diagonal. The fact that Black still has not castled is just a plus to our plan! Despite that, Black will have issues with very strong Bishop on b3 eyeing the f7-spot. 9...Bb8 10.Bd2 As mentioned, White is ready to swing the Bishop to b4- stopping Black's castling! 10...a5 The only way for Black to continue the game is to prevent Bb4 by any means. The drawback is that the Knight will remain on the wonderful b5-square. The alternatives for Black are bleak: 10...O-O? Is losing to 11.Bb4 Re8 12.Ng5! and Black can not defend the f7-pawn anymore! Instead, if Black plays 10...Qb6 after 11.Na3 White has a clear advantage, and Nc4 comes in with a great effect. Undermining with the c-pawn is also promising here.

[10...a6 This 'natural' move is actually losing to a nice combination. 11.Nbxd4 White takes an advantage of the Black uncastled King! Black is practically forced to accept the sacrifice and to hope for the best for his King! exd4 12.Re1+ Thanks to the huge activity and good development White starts a tremendous attack on Black's centralized King! Kf8 13.Bb4+ Kg8

14.Ng5 And it is finally obvious that there is no escape for Black's King anymore! Bf7 is coming and there is no defense, White is winning! Do not forget that Black can not defend even with 14...Ne5 15.Rxe5! and the f7-pawn is unprotected once again! 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d]

11.Re1 With an important intermediary move, White develops another piece and once again threatens Black's central pawns due to a pinned King. 11...0-0 12.a4 Not only that White secures a space advantage with this move, but it also improves eternal Knight on b5. Black is completely tied up. Soon, the c3 approach will come in, and then after the trade, the dark-squared Bishop will reach a perfect position on the c3 square, attacking the e5-pawn. On the other hand, Black's Rook might not be very mobile due to the weakness on f7, and Black will have difficulties activating the Queenside as well. White is clearly better! 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d

5...dxe4 This is a mistake that grants a clear advantage to White. Namely, Black is just too late with development and there is no time to collect pawns! Interestingly enough, almost 10% of the games continue this way and I had even titled players against me who went for it!

6.Ng5 The double attack leaves Black with the grim outcome of doubling the e-pawns. Note that 6.Nxe5?? would be a terrible mistake as it runs into one of the oldest tricks in chess 6...Qa5! 6...Be6 Incredibly, there are more than 20 games where Black ignores the threat on f7 with 6...Bc5? however, this is too optimistic and after 7.Nxf7 Qb6 the 'intermediate attack' does not help in any way, since White will simply castle and keep all the threats. After a castle 8.O-O Black will be a pawn down, behind in development and without the rights to castle Kingside. White's attack against the centralized King is crushing and White has a much better position! 7.Bxe6 This is slightly better than 7.Nxe6 fxe6 8.Bxe6 where White keeps the Bishop pair but will likely be forced to sacrifice a pawn for quick development. Otherwise, 8...exd3 9.cxd3 leaves a bad structure and White is even obstructed by its own pawn. For that reason, 9.O-O would be a better option and White tries to make something against Black's centralized King. 7...fxe6 It's already clear that Black's position is unnatural, with late development and tripled pawns on the e-file. White just needs to follow the basic principles of chess to gain a clearly better position. 8.Nxe4 With this capture, rather than taking on e6, White makes sure that Black is left with the isolated doubled pawns on the e-file. 8...Nxe4

9.dxe4 White has no problems to enter an endgame with long-term weaknesses to attack - e6 and e5 pawns! 9...Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 The position has simplified after the numerous exchanges but White is taking a lasting structural

advantage into the endgame where only White can play for a win. The doubled pawns control a large number of squares, limiting White's option at penetrating with the Rook or Knights, but still, they are doubled and isolated, thus a target for White's pieces. White will play f3, Ke2, likely a4 to prevent Black's b5, and then Nd2-Nb3 or even Nc4, followed by further development of Bd2-Bc3. 1) Bishop's Opening 2... Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d

40 **6...Bd6** This is a suspicious move by Black that allows White to pressure the d5-pawn with an active development move! 7.Nc3 White puts pressure on Black's center and Black is practically forced to advance with the d-pawn which was not the initial plan. 7...d4 If Black is stubborn and tries to keep the center after 7...Bc7 White would be able to continue with 8.exd5 cxd5 9.O-O and with a simple plan of Re1, after gaining the outpost Nb5, Black's center would be vulnerable. 8.Ne2 0-0 9.0-0 White gains a slightly better position with the possibility to undermine Black's center after c3. The Knight from e2 will be relocated to the g3-square, and White will be able to continue with active development whilst Black faces issues with activation of the Bishops and the Queenside minor pieces in general. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d

41 **10.Na3** With the threat of Nb5, White continues with pressure on Black's center and plays against the pieces that are defending it! 10...Nbd7 Black develops the Knight a bit passively, but aims to be able to move the Queen away from the pin. The Knight from d7 might join the game afterwards with Nc5.

[10...Nc6 If Black decides to develop the Knight on the most active square, he will face issues trying to break away from the pin of the Knight on f6. White's plan does not change, and we still aim to attack Black's vulnerable center! 11.Nb5 Knight reaches a perfect square and Black's dark-squared Bishop is forced to escape down to the back-rank. The idea is simple: O-O and Re1, pressuring both d5 and e5 squares! Bb8 12.0-0 0-0 13.Re1 Although the engines are not delighted with White's position here, but give equal chances to both sides, I would say that White has a clear initiative with active pieces and a forthcoming plan of h3-Nh2-Ng4 which would put Black's Knight on f6 in an uncomfortable position. Black can not improve the defense over the Knight on f6, and the Queen will be stuck to its starting position square as a defender. One should also notice that the connection between the Rooks and the Queen is disconnected by the Bishop on b8, and it is questionable where can Black search for action. Aronian, L proved that this position is good to be played in practice, defeating Duda, J in an online game played on chess24.com in 2020. h6 14.Bh4 g5 15.Bg3 Bg4 16.h3 Bh5 17.Re3 Kg7 18.Rc1 Ng8

19.d4 e4 20.Bxb8 Rxb8 21.g4 Bg6 22.Ne5 Bh7 23.c4 dxc4 24.Nxc4 Nf6 25.Ncd6 Nb4 26.d5 Qb6 27.Rc7 Nd3 28.Qc2 Bg6 29.Qc3 Rfd8 30.Nc4 Qa6 31.d6 Nf4 32.Ne5 Rxd6 33.Nxf7 Bxf7 34.Rxf7+ Kg6 35.Qc7 Reference Games-Aronian,L]

[10...h6 Black might try to move dark-squared Bishop away, aiming to break the pin of the Queen and Knight, but of course White will keep the Bishop on the currently most active diagonal h4-d8. 11.Bh4 With a simple step back, White keeps pressure on the Knight on f6 and stops Black from developing the Queen. Nbd7 Although 11...Nc6 instead looks more logical, Black is practically forced to support Knight on f6 to release the Queen, allowing it to join the game afterward. 12.Nb5 White has no reason not to follow the previously mentioned plan of development. After the forthcoming O-O and Re1, Black will have issues with activating his pieces; more so, the d5 and e5 central squares will be targets of White's attacks. Bb8 13.0-0 0-0 14.Re1 White includes the last piece into a game and it is obvious that White's pieces are much more active whilst Black are stuck to the back-rank. It is questionable if Black can reconnect the Queen with the Rooks due to the clumsy positioned dark-squared Bishop on b8 which does not have an available square for activation. Re8 15.Nd2 was shown in a game Belka, W-Helbich, J ICCF email 2018, White is ready to break Black's center with d4 and c4 finally! White is at least slightly better with full control of the e-file and an eternal Knight on b5. The light-squared Bishop has a safe spot on c2, and if Black proceeds with a possible Nc5, White could also close all the opportunities for Black to play on the g4-square after h3. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d]

11.Nb5 White has an easy play after gaining a beautiful outpost on b5. After O-O and Re1, all the pieces will be included in the game, and Black has no good moves to strike back! 11...Bb8 The only way for Black to preserve the Bishop and to also protect the e5-pawn. With the next few moves White adds pressure against that pawn. 12.0-0 0-0 13.Re1 All the pieces of White reached the most active squares and Black still has issues with development. It can be said that Black has no benefits from the full central control, but only problems to defend it. 13...Re8 Black could also go for activation of another Rook with 13...Ra6 14.Nd2 +/ = but that does not change White's plan of Nd2 followed with a center break of d4 and c4! 14.Bh4 Black has no active options and thus White can afford such a 'slow' move. The idea is to have Bg3 at hand, when and if needed, but not to drop the pin against Nf6 too soon. 14...Ra6 15.Nd2 White seems a bit better in the arising position, as we have already seen in the theoretical section. White is ready to play d4 and meet Black's e4 with the immediate c4-blow and this center break would put pressure on Black's vulnerable center and White will be able to

activate the pieces. Utilizing the fact that Black's Knight is on d7 instead of c6, White gets ready to play d4 and meet Black's e4 with the immediate c4-blow. This central break would put pressure on Black's vulnerable center and White will activate pieces as it was shown in the games Model game: Yu, Y-Wang Shenzhen 2016 & Lu, S-Bai CHN-CHT 2017 15...Nc5 [15...h6 This is one of those 'waiting' moves where Black does not know what is White about to do and makes a useful waiting move to see White's idea. 16.d4 This d4 break seems crucial in pawn structures like the one on the board, especially because e4 is forced. *(16.Nf1 Nf8 17.d4 e4 18.Ne3 Ng6 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Bxd5 Bxd5 21.Nxd5 Qg5 22.c4 Nh4 23.g3 Qf5 24.Re3 Rg6 25.Raa3 Qc8 26.Qe2 Nf3+ 27.Kg2 Nh4+ 28.Kg1 Nf3+* Reference Games-Belka, W *)* 16...e4 17.c4 Altogether with 16. d4! this is another move that gives White quite a promising initiative and chances. Black's center is about to collapse, the e4 pawn will turn out to be weaker, while the weakness of the isolated d4-pawn in White's position will be fully compensated with great activity of minor pieces! dxc4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Nxc4 This is the activity I mentioned in the previous comment. Now apart from having nicely placed Knights, there are also few nice ideas such as Qb3 or Rc1. Nb6 20.Bxf6 Deep positional understanding and a great move by White which strength I have to point out! White gives up seemingly strong Bishop for the 'normal' Knight on f6 but gets better control of d5 square, also 21.Ne3 supports the d4 pawn and afterward with Rc1, White will slowly but surely create a middlegame initiative, as happened in the game! Qxf6 21.Ne3 The Knight has taken its nice blocking position and White hopes for either Rc1 or Qb3 afterward. Pay attention to pretty misplaced Ra6, Nb6, and quite 'good' but useless Bb8! Bf4 Black would like to know what to do with this Bishop too! 22.Qb3 Opens up back rank, takes better control of the d5 square, and after Rac1 White will create a huge initiative. Qd8 23.Rac1 Rooks should always take open files! An idea could be either Rc5!? or Rc1 followed by Rec1. Ra8 Black hopes to solve the problem of the inactive Ra6, by playing Ra6-Ra8-Rc8, but after the next move, White seems to get unstoppable initiative! 24.Rc5 Aimes against 24...Rc8? due to 25. Rf5! , also points out how weak the a5-pawn could be afterward as well. Bxe3 Once again CC StartBracket CC like in some of the other model games CC EndBracket CC, Black who was in the trouble, helps White in an already difficult position to launch an attack easier. f7 pawn becomes weak, Rf1 is an option followed by Rcf5 or Rc7 too. 25.fxe3 Rc8 26.Rf1 Qd7 The more stubborn defense was 26... Re6 27.Rcf5 Nc4 28.Rxf7 Qe6 29.Nc7 Reference Games-Yu,Y] 16.Bc2 Bd7 17.Nf1 Ne6 18.d4 e4 19.c4 dxc4 20.Bxe4 g5 21.Bg3 Bxg3 22.Nxg3 Bxb5 23.axb5 Rd6 24.Nf5 Nxe4 25.Rxe4 Rd5 26.Qf3 Qf6 27.g4 Rxb5 28.Rae1 Rf8 29.Re5 Rb3

30.Qd5 Rxb2 31.Rxe6 fxe6 32.Rxe6 Rb5 33.Qxc4 Rb4 34.Qc7 Rb1+ 35.Kg2 Rc1 36.Qxb7 Rb1 37.Qd7 Rf7 38.Qd5 Rb5 39.Re8# Reference Games-Lu,S

42 **8...Bb4+** If Black tries to develop with tempo check, he will be blocked as you will see soon! 9.c3 Of course, after obtaining the Bishop pair, White does not trade one of them with 9.Bd2 Bd2 . Black forced c4 which is now useful for us, since it provides a potential safe spot for the light-squared Bishop, and gives us better central control. 9...Be7 If Black goes for a 'more active' retreat with 9...Bc5 White has an easy play after 10.O-O with the idea of Bg5 since the Knight on f6 is vulnerable for pins. As it was played in a game Fortunato, L-Petria, F LSS email 2007, Black needs to go for 10...dxe4 , otherwise White will capture on d5 , and after 11. dxe4 O-O 12.Bg5 Nbd7 White just goes for normal development 13.Rd1 Qb6 14.Nd2 h6 with a simple step-back 15.Bh4 Rad8 16. Ba2 prepares the activation of the Knight and it is obvious that after 16...Qc7 17.Qf5 White has a clear advantage thanks to the Bishop pair and full control over the play!

[9...Bc5 10.0-0 dxe4 11.dxe4 0-0 12.Bg5 Nbd7 13.Rd1 Qb6 14.Nd2 h6 15.Bh4 Rad8 16.Ba2 Qc7 17.Qf5 Rfe8 18.Nf3 Bd6 19.Nh2 Kf8 20.Ng4 Be7 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Qh7 Nc5 23.Nxf6 gxf6 24.Qxh6+ Ke7 25.Bxf7 Reference Games-Fortunato, L]

10.0-0 0-0 The absence of Nf3 CC StartBracket CC which was pressing e5 CC EndBracket CC and the occupation of the c3-square CC StartBracket CC from where White was attacking d5 CC EndBracket CC , changes White's plans a bit. 11.Na3 White goes now for a flexible move that keeps options of jumping to c2 with maneuver of Ne3-Nf5, or to jump to c4 if Black trades the pawn on e4, and of course, there is an option for Nb5 if White captures on d5. 11...Qb6 12.Bc2 White keeps Bishops safe and now it is obvious that we will go for a plan of ed5 followed by Nb5! 12...Nbd7 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Nb5 And finally, the Knight got the perfect space from where it can not be moved! 14...Rac8 15.Be3 White will continue Rae1 and Bg5 to threaten the central pawns. Of course, there is always possibility for d4 break, but White has no reason to hurry with it, as it was shown in a game Holdschik,J-Edighoffer,H Chessfriend.com 2003. 15...d4 16.cxd4 Rxc2 17.dxe5 Qa6 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Rac1 Rxb2 20.Rfe1 Rd8 21.Bf4 h6 22.Bc7 Rf8 23.Qg4 Nb6 24.Bd6 Rd8 25.Be7 Bxe7 26.Rxe7 Nd5 27.Rc8 Nxe7 28.Rxd8+ Kh7 29.Qe4+ Qg6 30.Qxe7 Qf5 31.Qe4 Rxf2 32.Qxf5+ Rxf5 33.d4 Rf6 34.Rd7 b6 35.Rd6 Kg6 36.d5 Rxd6 37.Nxd6 Kf6 38.Nc4 Ke7 39.Kf2 Kd7 40.Ke3 Kc7 41.Ke4 f6 42.Kf5 Kd7 43.g4 Ke7 44.Kg6 Kd8 45.Nxb6 Ke7 46.Nc4 Kf8 47.Nxa5 Ke7 48.Nc4 Kd8 49.Kxg7 Reference Games-Holdschik,J

[43] **10.c3**

[10.0-0 White can also save time and allow Nc5, still achieving a good position. The alternative that saves the Bishop pair could be 10.c3 when White creates a c2 shelter for the light-squared Bishop. After 10...Be7 11.O-O O-O 12.Nd2 White continues development with the idea of Nc4, or even Rd1 with Nf1. 12... Nc5 13.Bc2 Qc7 14.Nc4 and after 14...Ne6 White just continues with the activation 15.Re1 Rfd8 and finally 16.Qg3 when Black is forced to protect the e5 pawn. The Queen is positioned against Black's King and supports the advance of h4-h5. You should have in mind that Queen can also go back to f3 , with the idea of g3 that prevents Black to activate with the Nf4 jump. The game between Movsesian, S-Gashimov, V Sabadell 2008 continued with 16...Nd7 17.h4 when White has started the Kingside attack. Nc5 As we have assumed, Black goes for the Knight activation and attacks b3 and e4. Of course, that does not stop us to continue developing. 11.Nd2 Defending the e4-pawn, the Knight is on the way to the excellent c4-square from where it attacks Black's central e5 pawn! Be7 12.Nc4 White is not afraid to trade the e-pawns because he already castled and is ready to play Re1, while Black's King is still in the center! 0-0 If Black instead goes for 12...Ncxe4?! 13.Nxe5 O-O 14.Re1 White gains a clearly better position and Black is strongly pressed on f7 and along with the e-file. ; Instead, Black can also play 12...Nxb3?! 13.Qxb3 and White has a clear advantage. The point is that whenever Black trades on b3, his weaknesses get into the spotlight. e5 is hanging CCStartBracket CCe4 not really as there is always Re1 CC EndBracket CC , and b6 will be under pressure by White's Knight and Bishop. A sample line might be 13...Qc7 14.Be3! Nxe4 15.Bb6 with idea Rfe1 and Black is overwhelmed. 13.Re1 Even from this innocuous looking position White can develop a tremendous attack, as it will be shown soon! Qc7 Black needs to take care about the hanging central pawn and goes for development move that connects the Rooks. 14.Bd2 Of course, White will not stop with pressure and Bishop can come to c3, improving the attack on the e5 pawn. Nfd7 One should not forget that if Black takes the light squared Bishop with 14...Nxb3 15.Qxb3 White swings the Queen on the Queenside, and Black again faces weaknesses on e5 and b6. 15.Red1 White no longer needs to protect the e4-pawn and now we prepare a devious attacking plan! It is obvious that there are no defenders of the Black's King and White will have nice tactical engagements with possible Bh6, as it will be seen soon! b6 16.Ba2 We do not care anymore about the Queenside pawns, and idea is to keep Bishops on the board. The light-squared Bishop will be a very important piece for the attack, eyeing the f7-spot and indirectly pinning Black's King. Nxa4 17.Bh6 Out of nowhere, the attack on the Kingside has begun! White uses clumsy positioned Black pieces to open the g-file! Bf6 Black needs to

improve defense over the f7 spot, since the White's threat was Bg7! The point is that if Black takes 17... gxh6 18.Qg4! comes with a double attack on the Knight on d7 and check at the same time. The same would happen if Black allowed us to take with Bxg7. 18.Rd6 As it was seen in the game between Semrl,M-Hofmann, G ICCF email 2014, White does not stop with pressure! The idea is Rad1, and Black will face issues with the Knight on d7. Due to a threat of Qg4, Black still does not threaten to take gh6. On the other hand, Black can not just move the Nd7 to defend, since in that case, White has a sacrifice with Rf6! and there will be no defense for Black's King! Nac5 19.Qg4 Ne6 20.Be3 b5 21.Rad1 Ndc5 22.Bxc5 Nxc5 23.Ne3 Ne6 24.Rd7 Qc8 25.Rxf7 Kxf7 26.Nf5 Rd8 27.Rd6 Reference Games-Semrl,M]

10...Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nd2 Nc5 13.Bc2 Qc7 14.Nc4 Ne6 15.Re1 Rfd8 16.Qg3 Nd7 17.h4 Bf8 18.h5 g6 19.Qh4 Bg7 20.g3 Bf6 21.Qh3 Ndc5 22.hxg6 hxg6 23.Bh6 Qe7 24.Kg2 Ng5 25.Qg4 Qe6 26.Qxe6 Ngxe6 27.Be3 Nd7 28.Red1 Be7 29.f4 Bc5 30.f5 Nef8 31.Bg5 f6 32.Bh6 Kf7 33.Bb3 Ke7 34.Rh1 g5 35.Bg7 Ke8 36.Rad1 Ke7 37.Kf3 b5 38.Ne3 Bxe3 39.Kxe3 Nc5 40.Bxf8+ Kxf8 41.Rh8+ Ke7 42.Rh7+ Ke8 43.Rdh1 Rd3+ 44.Ke2 Rad8 45.Rg7 Rd2+ 46.Kf3 R8d3+ 47.Kg4 Kf8 48.Rg8+ Reference Games-Movsesian,S

44 **6...Be6** With this simple development move Black stubbornly tries to maintain tension in the center. However, that doesn't stop White's development and White will keep pressure on the d5 and e5 exposed pawns. 7.Bg5 White continues with the most natural follow-up, developing a dark-squared Bishop on the most active square. With a pinned Knight on f6, Black is once again faced with issues of the hanging d5 pawn. 7...Bc7 Although this move might look as logical follow-up defending the d5-pawn, 7...Bc7?! is considered suspicious since White is able to gain activity with the central break, as it will be shown soon!

[7...d4 Although it looks that Black gains space control with this move, as well as some activity, the fact is that White will have no problems after a simple step back with the hanging Knight. Black's center will be exposed to attacks with c3, and for sure Black will not be happy with the position of the dark-squared Bishop that faces its own pawns. 8.Ne2 As it was previously mentioned, after a simple retreat with the Knight, White threatens to take Be6 forcing Black to double pawns on e-file. Later on, White's play will be turned to using the long-term advantage of the pawn structure. Nbd7 One should not forget that if Black instead went for 8...Bxb3 9.axb3 White would be happy to have the open a-file and f5-square for the Knight. After 9...h6 10.Bd2! White is slightly better with a simple plan of O-O, Ng3, Nh4 with an idea to occupy the f5-square, and possible c3-b4 is an option as well. Also, if Black chooses to play 8...h6 9.Bd2 White still has a slightly better position with an idea of O-O and c3, and Black will

face issues with the vulnerable center. 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.c3 White tends to make Black's pawn structure permanently damaged. Black is forced to react to the hanging d-pawn, but also needs to worry about the threat of Qb3 and a double attack of e6 and b7 pawns! dxc3 Of course, a move such as 10...c5 would not be possible due to 11.Qb3 and Black will have issues to defend both b7 and e6 pawns! 11.bxc3 White attained their goal and made the e5 and e6 pawns eternally doubled. With a simple plan of O-O, gaining space advantage after a4, and keeping the threat of Qb3, White has easy play and at least a slightly better position. Qa5 12.0-0 0-0-0 With weaknesses on both the Kingside and the Queenside, Black's only option to compensate a poor pawn structure is to try to complicate matters with possible Kingside actions. However, White's King is safe, and we can turn play on the open b-file now. 13.a4 With this prophylactic move we gain space advantage over the weakened Queenside. White is ready to expose Black's lone King to attacks after Qb3 and Rfb1, and Black still needs to think about the doubles pawns weakness. h6 14.Be3 White toggles the pieces to the Queenside and prepares for the attack! It is obvious that Black has no direct action on the Kingside, and Black's Queen is marginalized on the a5 square, without the possibility to get activity back. Qa6 15.Qc2 With idea of Rfb1 and a5, White will take full control and dominance over the position. Besides the better pawn structure, White has a strong attack on the Queenside as it could be seen in a game O'Hare,C-Wegman,W ICCF email 2009. g5 16.a5 Ng4 17.Bd2 Ngf6 18.Be3 Ng4 19.Bc1 Ngf6 20.c4 Rh7 21.Nc3 g4 22.Nd2 Be7 23.Nb3 h5 24.Be3 h4 25.Na4 c5 26.Nbxc5 Nxc5 27.Nxc5 Bxc5 28.Bxc5 Nh5 29.g3 Nf6 30.Be3 Reference Games-O'Hare,C]

[7...Nbd7 A typical mistake that is very easy to be made! I have won a couple of games from here, because the Black players thought that White can not take d5 pawn due to the double attack Qa5 threat. But we have other plans to gain a pawn-up advantage! 8.exd5 cxd5 9.Bxd5 Of course, we won't fall into the trap of taking 9.Nxd5 and losing a piece after 9...Bxd5 10.Bxd5 Qa5 with a double attack on the King and Bishop on d5. After this move, Black does not have this possibility and we gain a clear pawn up in the 9th move of play! Bxd5 10.Nxd5 Qa5+ 11.Nc3 And after a simple step-back move, White keeps a material advantage with a clearly better position and easy play. If Black proceeds with 11...Bb4 threatening the pinned Knight on c3, after 12.Bd2 White holds the position and aims to proceed with O-O and further development! 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d]

8.d4 Thanks to the great activity of pieces, White is ready for the center break! Black struggles with a pinned Knight on f6 and every opening of the center is beneficial for White.

8...exd4 Of course 8...dxe4 would lead to a clearly better position for White after 9.Nxe4 since Black has no

possibility to improve the defense over the f6-square. 9.Nxd4 0-0 10.Qe2

[10.0-0 I find this move as a nice improvement over 10.Qe2 which was played by Caruana, F against Fodor, T in Budapest 2007. Mainly, not only that with 10.O-O White concludes development, but has a threat of Re1, followed by exd5 or e5. If Black continues with 10...Qd6 White is able to proceed with 11.f4! which provides a clear advantage to White, with two uncomfortable threats- e5 and Bf6!]

10...h6 11.Bh4 Ba5 12.0-0 g5 13.exd5 gxh4 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.dxe6 Qe7 16.Rad1 Kg7 17.Ne4 Bc7 18.Nxf6 Rxf6 19.Rd3 a5 20.a4 b6 21.Rfd1 Ra7 22.Kh1 Bf4 23.g3 hxg3 24.hxg3 Bg5 25.f4 Bxf4 26.gxf4 Rxf4 27.Rg3+ Kh7 28.Qd3+ Kh8 29.Qg6 Qf8 30.Qg8+ Qxg8 31.Rxg8+ Kxg8 32.e7+ Kh7 33.e8Q Rg7 34.Qxb8 Rh4+ 35.Qh2 Rxh2+ 36.Kxh2 b5 37.Rd6 Rc7 38.Kg3 Reference Games-Caruana, F

45 **8.Ncxe4** We keep the pressure on Black's King with the Knight actively placed on g5, whilst another Knight gets centralized! Also, there is a tendency of removing Nf6 as a defender around the Black's King and clearing h5 square for Qd1-Qh5, and all of that with tempo! 8...h6 Black inserts an intermediate h6 aiming to force trades on e4 in a way where White can not conquer it with a piece. However, White has an intermediary move, as well, aimed against this idea. 9.Nxf6+ With a tempo check, White prepares to toggle the Knight from g5 to the e4-square, with a double attack on the f6 and d6 spots! 9...Qxf6 10.Ne4 White takes control over e4 square and puts Black in trouble due to a threat of overtaking the advantage of the Bishop pair. Black is forced to find a good square for the Queen which would be helpful in defense of the Kingside since White's pieces are obviously ready for attack! 10...Qe7 If Black goes for a natural and solid move, White is able to pressure the Kingside by swinging the Queen to the desirable attacking square h5!

[10...Qg6 With this move Black aims to prevent Qh5 and keeps an eye on the g4 and g2 squares. However, the Queen is now a bit marginalized. 11.Qf3 Not only that with this move White secures the g2-pawn, but aims to knock the Black Queen away after h4-h5. This advance will provide a g3-square for White's Queen and an attack will continue with a threat of Bxh6! a5 Black needs to search for a counterattack on the Queenside and tries to hunt the light-squared Bishop which is one of the most important pieces for White's attack. 12.a3 White takes a short break from actions on the Kingside and makes a shelter for the light-squared Bishop before proceeding with the h4-h5 plan and afterward with Qg3. White has a nice initiative with a mating attack. The light-squared Bishop which will stay on the long a2-g8 diagonal eyeing Black's King, while the Knight on e4 controls the center and all the important squares around it. One should not forget that Black's Queen

on g6 is kind of clumsy, and if White manages to hurry with an attack on it, the connection between the Bishop on d6 and Queen on g6 will be broken, resulting in material advantage for White. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d]

11.Qh5 With a centralized Knight and a light-squared killer positioned on b3 White threatens the deadly 11... -- 12.Bxh6! Of course, recapturing the piece with 12...gxh6 would lead to losing position after simple 13.Qg6! , followed by Qh6 and Nf6.

11...Be6 Black has no choice but to hope that Be6 would be helpful enough to keep the King safe. As it will be shown soon, White has other plans!

12.Bxh6 White does not even blink and concludes that we do not need the light-squared Bishop to realize an attack on the Black's lone King!

12...Bxb3 If Black accepts the sacrifice with 12...gxh6 13.Qxh6 is coming afterward with an idea of Nf6+ and Black can not protect it with f5 , due to a hanging Bishop on e6!

13.Bg5 With a tempo attack on Black's Queen, White puts the dark-squared Bishop on a safe spot, threatening to proceed with axb3 or a possible Nf6 ! 13...f6 This is practically the only move for Black. If instead, he chooses 13... Qd7 14.Nf6! White easily wins conquering the dark squares around the King with the forthcoming Bf6 with undefendable mate Qg5-Qg7#! Of course if 13... Qe6 14.axb3 and White has a winning position with a clear pawn-up and huge activity. 14.axb3 White is not scared to lose the dark-squared Bishop since in that case, they control all of the light-squares on the Kingside. It might be questionable how can White win a game with only Knight and a Queen attacking Black's King, but the answer is that after this trade White has an idea of Ra4 followed by Rh4 and Black will not be able to defend anymore! 14...fxg5 15.Nxg5 Black already faces issues to defend the mate threat of Qh7 and needs to give up another pawn which immediately gives compensation for a piece. However, White will not be satisfied with material compensation but will go further with a harsh attack with the previously mentioned Ra4-Rh4!

15...g6 Black goes for the only defense of the h7 square. 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 Of course if 16...Qg7 instead, after 17.Qe6 Kh8 18.Qxd6 White is clearly better with three pawns up and the same idea of Ra4-Rh4. One should notice that Black can not capture the Knight on g5 due to a hanging Rook on f8! 17.Ra4 Reference Games-Inkiov,V This wonderful Rook lift delivers the final punch on h4, as it was shown in a game between Inkiov, V-Chaplin, E Mont de Marsan 2005. Black has no defense against this threat and he is forced to resign after only 17 moves of play!

46 **9...Be7** Black aims to keep Bishops on the board but White has time now to stop further Black activities and to create a mating attack on the Kingside! 10.Qh5 The Queen actively joins the game and at the

same time attacks e5 pawn and points out once again that the f7 pawn is vulnerable and that Black needs to think about defense here.

10...Nd7 Black needs to protect the e5-pawn and has a plan to relocate Knight to f6 , moving White's Queen away and supporting the King's defense. The advance of the pawns in front of the King loses on the spot since 10...h6? faces a devastating sacrifice 11.Bxh6 gxh6 12.Qg6 Kh8 13.Qxh6 Kg8 14.g4! and White is winning with the idea of g5 followed by Nf6; While after 10...g6? 11.Qh6 White immediately gains a winning position with a direct threat of Ng5 when Black will be forced to take it with Bishop and White will have full control of dark squares around the King. 11.0-0 White concludes development and still keeps an eye on the e5-pawn preparing to open f-file with f4! 11...Qc7 With this move Black defends the e5-pawn and follows up with the previously mentioned plan of Nf6, hoping to move White's Queen away from the Kingside. 12.f4 White is just that bit faster to prevent Nf6 and claims the advantage thanks to the active Bishops, centralized Knight, and the forthcoming attack on the Kingside. An immediate threat of White is to take fxe5 and the f7-pawn will be hanging. But be careful, if Black proceeds with logical 12...Nf6 White should not hurry to take the pawn with 13.Qxe5 due to Qxe5 14.fxe5 Nxe4 15.dxe4 Bc5 But instead, White gains a clear advantage after 13.Nxf6 Bxf6 14. f5! limiting Black's Bishops with a threat of Rf3-Rh3! 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d

10.Qf3 With a tempo attack on the light-squared Bishop White relocates the Queen on the Kingside and forces Black to decide what to do with the Bishop on f5.

10...Bxe4 Black gives up on the Bishop pair and takes off the centralized Knight which has a very important effect in White's Kingside attack.

[10...Bg6 If Black tries to hold the Bishop pair White gets the opportunity to seize the advantage! Light-squared Bishop now becomes the target of White's actions! 11.h4 Due to the threat of h5 Black needs to push the pawns around the King to follow up with the idea of keeping the Bishop pair on the board. h6 Black hopes to find a shelter for the light-squared Bishop but it is questionable if h6 is helpful in defense of the King. White will first continue with regular development, and afterward, the Kingside mating attack will be continued! 12.Be3 Not only that we include the last minor piece into a game, but we are also ready for O-O-O, and at the same time, Black's possible idea of activation with Na6-Nf6 is stopped! Kh8 Black realizes that the only chance to save the King is to move the centralized Knight on e4 away. Since Be4 would not make sense now after all the efforts of Black to keep Bishops on the board, the only way to do this is to continue with f5. 13.0-0-0 White ignores Black's idea of f5 and puts the King in the safe zone. It is questionable if Black is ready for

central breaks since the Queenside pieces are still undeveloped, but White is certainly ready for that! f5 14.Nxd6 White has no problem to finally take Black's dark squared Bishop and gain a long-term advantage of the Bishop pair. In that manner, we do not need to be focused only on Kingside now, but also lookout for breaks in the center! Qxd6 15.d4 And White enjoys a clearly better position! According to the basic principles of chess, in a position with the Bishop pair, we are advised to open the center up and activate the Rook on d1. Black's Queen on d6 is exposed to a very uncomfortable pin and one should not forget that the opponent's Queenside is not developed yet, and Black doesn't have many possibilities to gain activity. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d]

11.dxe4 Finally, we get an open position with a long-term advantage of the Bishop pair. Whilst White will continue with regular development, gaining d-file after Be3 and O-O-O, Black needs to think how to activate Knight on b8. 11...Nd7 Although Black's pieces look a bit clumsy on d-file, Black threatens to equalize after Nc5, since light squared Bishop will not have a good square to escape from the attack. 12.c3 White takes a moment to secure the retreat for the light-squared Bishop. An alternative here that could be interesting is 12.a3 played with the same idea of keeping the Bishops on board, and after 12...Nc5 12.Ba2 Qh4 White can simply give away the pawn for a nice initiative after 13.Be3! Qxe4 15.O-O-O! Qxf3 16.gxf3 and although it looks that Black has it all-pawn up and better pawn structure, it appears that White hast the initiative after 16...Be7 17.b4! with Rd7 coming afterward, and White has full control of d-file, 7th rank, and a Bishop pair as the main asset. 12...a5 This is a very good attempt by Black who aims to undermine White's Queenside pawns after a4, followed by a3. But of course, we will not allow this! If Black first goes for 12...Nc5 as it was played in a game Kovalev, V-Kacharava, N Skopje 2019, the position gets similar to the mainline after 13.Bc2 a5 14.O-O when White keeps up with development and idea to gain control over d-file. After 14...Qe7 15.Be3 Rfd8 16.g3 White has a possibility to continue with Kingside activity with h4, but also blocks Black's Knight to reach the f4-outpost. The game continued with 16...Ne6 17.Rad1 Bc5 and after 18.Bc1 White has a slightly better position with a long-term advantage of the Bishop pair.

[12...Nc5 13.Bc2 a5 14.0-0 Qe7 15.Be3 Rfd8 16.g3 Ne6 17.Rad1 Bc5 18.Bc1 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Rd8 20.Rf1 Ba7 21.h4 b5 22.Kg2 a4 23.Rh1 c5 24.Rd1 c4 25.Rd5 Nc7 26.Rxd8+ Qxd8 27.Qf5 f6 28.h5 Qe8 29.h6 Qe6 30.Qh5 g6 31.Qd1 Qe7 32.b3 axb3 33.axb3 Bc5 34.bxc4 bxc4 35.Bb1 Ne6 36.Qd5 Kf7 37.Qxc4 Qd6 38.Ba2 f5 39.Bg5 Qc6 40.Be3 Kf6 41.Qxe6+ Qxe6 42.Bxe6 Bxe3 43.fxe3 Kxe6 44.Kf3 g5 45.exf5+ Kxf5 46.g4+ Kf6

47.Ke4 Kg6 48.Kxe5 Reference Games-Kovalev,V]

13.a4 White stops Black's idea and at the same time gains a small space advantage which is always useful with the Bishop pair on the board. 13...Nc5 14.Bc2 And finally, the light-squared Bishop is safe and White can proceed with development! For sure, the next move will be O-O, including the Rooks in the game afterwards with Rd1. And finally, the light-squared Bishop is safe and White can proceed with development! For sure, the next move will be O-O, including the Rooks in the game afterwards with Rd1. More on this line inside the main course! 14...Ne6 With 14... Ne6 Black has finished a Knight maneuver and now eyes the nice f4-outpost. However, White has no issues now with that threat and continues with the previously mentioned plan! There was an interesting game between Adams and Kramnik in Tilburg 1998 where the ex-World champion went for Queenside action with 14...b5!? Although, after 15.axb5 cxb5 16. O-O White would retain a small middlegame advantage mainly thanks to the Bishop pair and the open d-file.

[14...b5 15.0-0 Qc7 16.Rd1 Rab8 17.axb5 cxb5 18.g3 b4 19.cxb4 Rxb4 20.Bd2 Rxb2 Reference Games-Adams,M]

15.0-0 Qe7 16.Rd1 And the d-file is in control by White! 16...Rfd8 As expected, Black puts the effort to take control over the d-file, but we have other plans now! 17.g3 And at the moment when it looked that Black will be able to equalize the position after exchanges on d-file, White plays a very useful move to prevent Nf4 and prepares tthe h4-h5 advance. At the moment when Black offers a trade on the d-file, we will be able to toggle the pieces back to the Kingside with Rf1, preparing for the attack! As it was shown in the game Karjakin, S-Gelfand, B Nice 2008, White has a small but everlasting advantage due to the Bishop pair and the limited scope of Black's pieces. 17...Bc5 18.Bd2 Rd7 19.h4 Rad8 20.Be1 Bb6 21.Kg2 g6 22.Rxd7 Rxd7 23.Rd1 h5 24.Bd2 Kg7 25.Bc1 Ba7 26.Bb3 Rxd1 27.Qxd1 Qf6 28.Qd2 Bb6 29.Qe2 Nc5 30.Bc2 Ne6 31.b3 Kg8 32.Bd3 g5 33.hxg5 Nxg5 34.b4 axb4 35.cxb4 Ne6 36.Qf3 Qg6 37.Bc4 Nd4 38.Qe3 Bd8 39.a5 Be7 40.Bd2 h4 41.Bc3 Bg5 42.Qd3 hxg3 43.fxg3 Bf6 44.a6 bxa6 45.Bxa6 Qg4 46.Bc4 Kg7 Reference Games-Karjakin,S

47 **7...Na6** With this move Black aims to hunt White's light-squared Bishop, keeping the possibility to develop the Bishop from c8. 8.c3 Not only that White decides to strike back in the center, making the d5 pawn weak, but also the Bishop from b3 has a safe spot now! 8...dxc3 9.bxc3 Black was practically forced to accept this trade of pawns, and all of a sudden, White gains full control over the central squares! 9...0-0 10.0-0 Nc5 11.Bc2 The light-squared Bishop is a valuable asset and White keeps it on the board. With the idea of Ng3-Nh4 gaining

control over the f5 outpost, White would have great initiative. It is important to emphasize that we should not hurry for center breaks of d4, since that would make the e4 pawn vulnerable. 11...Bg4 12.Ng3 Knight on f3 and Queen are connected, and White is ready to move the Bishop away after h3. 12...Nh5 This is actually not stopping h3, it is rather helping White to open the f-file. 13.h3 Nxg3 14.fxg3 We have no issue to have double pawns on g-file as long as we have full control over the f-file eyeing the f7 weakness. Black's Bishop on g4 is under attack and Black needs to react. 14...Bh5 15.g4 And after this move it is clear that Black has issues keeping the light-squared Bishop on the board. After 15...Bg6 White is ready to continue hunting with 16.h4 and Black's King will be under attack. As it was shown in a game Nunn, J-Kortschnoj, V Johannesburg 1981 White has an easy play with a clear advantage. 15...Bg6 16.h4 f6 17.h5 Bf7 18.d4 Ne6 19.Bb3 Qa5 20.Bd2 exd4 21.cxd4 Bb4 22.Be3 Rae8 23.h6 Kh8 24.g5 fxg5 25.Ne5 Bg8 26.hxg7+ Kxg7 27.Rf5 Be7 28.Qf3 Qd8 29.Qh5 Rxf5 30.exf5 Nf4 31.Bxf4 Qxd4+ 32.Kh1 Qxa1+ 33.Kh2 Rf8 34.Ng4 gxf4 35.f6+ Rxf6 36.Qg5+ Rg6 37.Qxe7+ Kh8 38.Bxg8 Qg7 39.Bf7 Reference Games-Nunn,J

[48] **8...Nbd7** 9.c3 c5 10.Ng3 Of course, there is no reason for White to give up on the idea of Nf5! 10...Ne8 Black aims to maneuver Knights making space for the light-squared Bishop. But this simply takes too much time. White is ready for action! If instead, Black goes for 10...Nb6 , White can easily block development with 11.h3 , followed by a4 and a clear advantage. One should not forget that Black's Knight will face problems again.

[10...b5 This is a suspicious move by Black who forgot that White has plans on the Kingside. After Nf5, N3h4, White will be ready to open the Kingside with f4! 11.Nf5 Finally, we reached the desirable outpost! Nb6 12.cxd4 With a clever trade of the central pawns, White prevents any possible c4 advance and turns to play on the Kingside! cxd4 13.N3h4 This is a very interesting move with the idea of f4, which was previously mentioned. At the same time, White also improves control over the f5-outpost and makes the path for the Queen to join the attack! Re8 Although this move might look clumsy, Black needs to prepare development of Be6 before playing it! 14.f4 White has no reason to stop with the idea and opens the Kingside with a plan of Qf3 and possible Qg3! Be6 15.Qf3 Faced with a direct threat of Qg3 with a double attack on the g7 and e5 pawns, Black is forced to react aiming to stop this attack! exf4 16.Nxd6 Qxd6 17.Bxf4 White removes Black's Bishop from d6 and gains a clear advantage of the Bishop pair. After the forthcoming Be5 Black will face difficulties with defense of the Knight on f6! Qf8 18.Be5 Faced with a threat of Bf6 Black is forced to give up on the light-squared Bishop which held the f7 spot. After

this trade, White will be able to fully use the open f-file for attacks. Bxb3 19.Bxf6 Be6 20.Qg3 With a tremendous attack on the Black's King and two direct threats of Bd4 and Nf5 White has a winning position as it could be seen in a game Miroshnichenko,E -Jedryczka,K Polanica Zdroj 2001. Kh8 Reference Games-Miroshnichenko,E]

11.Nf5 White continues with the previously mentioned plan and puts pressure on Black. 11...Ndf6 Black's Bishop on c8 is once again blocked and has no good space for development. The only possible development move which might come with tempo is Bf5, but White prevents it easily! 12.Re1 White is ready for Black's possible Bf5 and the pawn on e5 would be vulnerable! 12...Nc7 13.Bg5 Since Black did not buy a trick to open the e-file for the Rook on e1, we continue with normal development. Black's Queen is now stuck to a defense of the Knight on f6. 13...Bxf5 If you take a deep look at the position, you would realize that Black has no other useful move but to accept that Bf5 must be played. 14.exf5 White should not worry here about double pawns, because Black will not be able to attack them while he faces issues to defend the pawn on e5. 14...h6 15.Bh4 Of course, White keeps the Bishop on the most active diagonal, and keeps the Queen locked to a defense of the Knight on f6. At the same time, you should have in mind that White will be able to proceed with Bg3 at some moment, attacking the e5 vulnerable pawn! 15...Re8 16.Re4 A beautiful way to pile up the heavy pieces along the e-file. With the idea of Qe2 and Re1 coming in, White has great initiative and activity as it can be seen in a game between Leite, D -Duamante, D ICCF email 2011. 16...dxc3 17.bxc3 Be7 18.Nxe5 Ncd5 19.Re1 Qc7 20.Qf3 Rad8 21.a4 a6 22.a5 Bf8 23.Bxf6 gxf6 24.Ng4 Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1 h5 26.Bxd5 hxg4 27.Qxg4+ Bg7 28.Re3 Kf8 29.Bc4 Bh6 30.Rg3 Qe5 31.Qg8+ Ke7 32.Qxf7+ Kd6 33.d4 cxd4 34.Qxb7 Qe1+ 35.Bf1 Rd7 36.Qb4+ Ke5 37.cxd4+ Reference Games-Leite,D

[49] **10.Nh4** We are ready to establish the Knight on a desirable f5 spot, but also to continue with active development after Bg5 and if possible h3 followed by Qf3 afterward! 10...g6 This is a committal, but necessary measure to prevent Nf5 for the time being. The drawback is that the dark-squares are now horribly weakened. If Black instead plays: 10...Bg4 White switches to the preparation of f4 with 11.Qe1 making Bishop on g4 clumsy, and after 11...Be6 12. Nhf5 Ne8 13.Nxd6 Nxd6 White finally reaches a goal with 14.f4 . Black could continue with a trade of the light-squared Bishops with 14... Bxb3 15.axb3 f6 16.Nh5 when White then prepares to attack the vulnerable g7-square with Qg3. After 16...Qc7 17.Qg3 Kh8 18. fxe5 fxe5 19.Bg5 White is slightly better with a strong threat of Nf6 and full control over the f-file. To

get familiar with ideas here I would recommend you to check the game Sudnitsyn, A-Bobykin, K ICCF email 2014.

[10...Bg4 11.Qe1 Be6 12.Nhf5 Ne8 13.Nxd6 Nxd6 14.f4 Bxb3 15.axb3 f6 16.Nh5 Qc7 17.Qg3 Kh8 18.fxe5 fxe5 19.Bg5 Rf7 20.Qh4 Raf8 21.Nf6 gxf6 22.Bxf6+ Rxf6 23.Rxf6 Rxf6 24.Qxf6+ Kg8 25.Qe6+ Nf7 26.Qg4+ Kh8 27.Rf1 Qe7 28.Rf3 b6 29.Qc8+ Nfd8 30.Qf5 Ne6 31.h4 Kg7 32.Rg3+ Kh8 33.h5 Nf4 34.Rg4 b5 35.g3 Reference Games-Sudnitsyn,A]

11.Bg5 Development is almost done, and Black needs to think how to take back control over dark-squares which are obviously weakened.

11...Be7 Black intends to activate dark-squared Bishop and improves the position of the Knight on f6 which is not pinned anymore. It would be perfect for Black if he can manage to trade Bishops, with a possible Nd7, but White will not allow this.

[11...a5 Black aims to hunt the Bishop on b3, but at the same time weakens light squares on the Queenside. 12.Bd5 With this move, White enters deeper to Black's position. Good alternative would be 12.a4 when White seizes light squares and prepares for f4 or even c3-break. Re8 Black prepares development of the light squared Bishop to desirable e6 spot. Anyway, this should not be White's concern at the moment because we aim to compromise dark squares now! 13.Qd2 With a simple development move, White connects the Rooks and both the Queen and the Bishop on g5 controlling all of the dark squares that are obviously weakened on Black's Kingside. Nb4 It is worth mentioning that Black would not benefit a lot from an immediate Bishops trade offer with 13...Be6 since White would be able to continue with 14.Bxe6 and f4 break afterwards! 14.Bc4 Of course, we will not accept the trade which would compromise our pawn structure and light squared Bishop escapes from an attack. After the forthcoming Bb and a4, White will conquer light squares on the Queenside, at the same time having full control of dark squares on the Kingside! Be6 15.Bb5 As previously mentioned, White just wants to take all the possibilities from position and does not go for trades immediately! Nc6 One should not forget that Black did not have an option to proceed with 15...Bd7 due to 16.Bd7 and Knight on f6 would be hanging! 16.Nf3 This might look unlogical, but White's Knight finished the job on the h4 square and now gets back into the game. White aims to proceed with h4, Nh2, and possible f4 break with an attack on the Kingside! Bd7 17.a4 Since Black is ready to offer the trade of Bishops on the Queenside, White intends to first cover all the light squares there. Bf8 18.h4 h5 19.Nh2 After forcing lack to weaken dark squares on the Kingside even more after 18...h5 White prepares f4 with opening of the f-file! Be7 20.f4 It is a fact that Black has issues with exposed e5-pawn and that White wanted to open the f-file after f4. However, the main idea now is to proceed with the Kingside attack with 21.f5 followed by Bc4, and White will

have full control of a2-g8 diagonal! As it was shown in a game, Walton, J-Albesa, A ICCF email 2018 White has a great mating attack and initiative here! Nh7 21.Bxe7 Qxe7 22.Nf3 exf4 23.Qxf4 Nb4 24.Bxd7 Qxd7 25.Ne5 Qe6 26.Nxf7 Nxc2 27.Nxh5 Nxa1 28.Qg3 Ra6 29.Nh6+ Kh8 30.Rf7 Nf8 31.Nf4 Qb6 32.h5 g5 33.Nf5 Reference Games-Walton,J]

[11...Na5 With this move Black obviously wants to remove the Bishop from b3. However, White will now be able to quickly open the f-file. 12.h3 Before the advance of f4, we want to make sure that Black will have no possible counterplay on the Kingside with optional Bg4 or even Ng4 in some cases. White is now fully prepared for the opening of the f-file and Black can not stop it! Nxb3 13.axb3 It is the fact that White lost a light-squared Bishop as an important asset for the Kingside attack, but at the same time, he gained an open a-file for the Rook which now pressures the a7 spot. Be7 14.f4 There is no reason for White to change the plan and not to proceed with f4 and activation of the Rook on f1 and Bishop on g5. Nd7 Black is forced to support the e5 pawn and not to allow the opening of the f-file. At this point, it would not be very nice for White to play fxe5 when Black would gain an outpost on e5. 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Qg4 After a trade of Bishops, White joins the game with a Queen and threatens both Nf5 and f5 as it could be seen in a game Bajt, D-Kouba, P ICCF email 2013. White has at least a slight advantage, with a further plan of the Kingside attack, possible doubling of Rooks on the f-file, and activating Knights. exf4 17.Qxf4 Ne5 18.Nf3 f6 19.Nxe5 Qxe5 Reference Games-Bajt,D]

[11...h6 Black tries to reach a position with interesting tactical engagement using the position of White's Knight on h4. However, this does not work well for him, as it will be shown soon! 12.Bxh6 Ng4 At the same time, Black attacks both the Knight on h4 and the Bishop on h6. It would not be good for White to allow Black's Queen to come on h4, eyeing the h2-spot with a direct mate threat. For that reason, we continue with a very important intermediary move! 13.Nxg6 We use the hidden light-squared Bishop to further approach Black's position! There is no more possibility of Qh4 by Black, but they face issues with the hanging Rook on f8! Nxh6 14.Qh5 All of the sudden Black faces issues with naked King and two hanging pieces- Knight on h6 and Rook on f8. On the other hand, White prepares to include the Rook in the attack after f4! Kg7 15.Nxf8 White gains a Rook and two pawns against two pieces. This is not a real material advantage, but one should not forget that Black's pieces are passive and dedicated to defense, while on the other side White aims to proceed with devastating f4-strike, opening the f-file and getting the Rooks into the attack. Further ideas of White can be also seen in a game Murin,P-Simon,W ICCF email 2010. Qf6 16.Ne6+ Bxe6 17.Bxe6 Qxe6 18.Qg5+ Qg6 19.Nh5+ Kh7 20.Nf6+ Kg7 21.Qxg6+ fxg6 22.Nd5 Ng4 23.g3 Rh8 24.f3 Nf6 25.Nxf6 Kxf6

26.h4 Nd8 27.Kg2 Ne6 28.Rf2 b5 29.a4 b4 30.b3 Ng7 31.f4 exf4 32.gxf4 Ke6 33.Rh1 Bc7 34.Kh3 Reference Games-Murin,P]

12.Nf3 There is no reason for White to keep the Knight on h4, and the Knight goes back into the game with the idea of an uncomfortable Bh6 followed by Ng5, and Black's pawn on f7 would be undefendable! 12...Kg7 Black is practically forced to somehow improve control over the dark-squares and to stop the Bh6 threat, and this is basically his only chance! 13.h3 White simply prevents Black's active development with Bg4 and prepares to support dark-squared Bishop with Queen! 13...Ng8 Trading the dark-squared Bishops would help Black to ease the pressure, but of course, we will not accept this offer! 14.Bd2 h6 15.c3 After getting some structural concessions on the Kingside, White switches the attention to undermining the center. After getting some structural concessions on the Kingside, White switches the attention to undermining the center. More on this line can be found here! 15...Bd6 16.Rc1 White should not hurry to break the tension from the center and first prepares the forthcoming cxd4! 16...Bd7 17.cxd4 cxd4 18.a3 With an open c-file, White is ready to take simultaneous actions on both the Kingside and the Queenside. This is a very important prophylactic move that provides a safe spot for the light-squared Bishop and after Ba2 White will be able to proceed with b4 as well. However, the main part of the game will be continued on Kingside as it will be shown soon! 18...Qe7 19.Nh2 Slightly better game for White. White can later choose to push f4 or try being more subtle with Rc2 and Qc1, followed by Ng4. While White has an active play on both sides, Black needs to search for a way to activate Knight from g8. Of course, we have already analyzed all of this in the theoretical section of the course! As it was shown in a game Grischuk, A-El Gindy, E Tbilisi 2017, White can later choose to push f4 or try being more subtle with Rc2 and Qc1, followed by Ng4. While White has an active play on both sides, Black needs to search for a way to activate marginalized Knight from g8 and White has at least a slight advantage here with a nice easy play. 19...Rac8 20.Bc4 From this point onwards great maneuvering by Grischuk begins! With the last move, White opens up the possibility for b4 with further expansion on the Queenside, afterward followed by Qb3 at some point, as well as covering c-file without the possibility for Black for further material simplifications. 20...Rc7 21.Ne2 That Knight on g3 had nothing to do with g3 since Black limited its activity with g6. Also, 21. Ne2 manages to secure an easier break on the f-file with f4 and allows surprising retreats with Kh1!? and Ng1!? 21...Be6 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Ng4 Pretty strong maneuvering move that provokes h5 with weak dark-squares afterward. 23...h5 24.Nh2 Now when the weaknesses of the

dark squares have just been provoked, that Knight can come back to its home on h2. It is remarkable how Grischuk found all these moves on such a small number of squares and how he even came up with the ideas that are about to be played. I guess that is one of the main power of Super GMs! 24...Qh4 25.Be1 This move secures temporary defense of the f2 square and allows possible f4 break if the Queen wants to be there on h4. 25...Rcf7 26.Kh1 Now when f2 square is successfully defended, it is time for White to do something with one of the worst pieces - the Knight on e2! With the last move, White has just opened up g1 square for the Knight as Grischuk was patiently looking for a chance to improve the position of his pieces and break on the Kingside at some point! 26...Qd8 27.Ng1 I would like to emphasize this moment of the game. Grischuk plays on just a few squares but managed to find surprisingly good maneuvering resources such as Nh2, Kh1, Ng1, and Be1. 27...Nf6 28.b4 An old good rule, when possible, play on both sides of the board! It is the strongest positional approach in middlegames! 28...a6 29.Bd2 This move improves the dark-squared Bishop and White tries, after all, to take advantage of the weak g5 square. From this point onward, White begins to exploit weaknesses in Black's game. Also, pay attention, how Grischuk still patiently kept on improving the placement of all his pieces with great maneuvering skills! 29...Nh7 30.Qe2 Once again White defends pawn on f2, although this time with the Queen, since he moved his Knight to g1 and Ngf3 is on the horizon... 30...Be7 31.Ngf3 White has not just solidified the position of previously limited Knight on g3 CC StartBracket CC Ng3-Ne2-Ng1-Ngf3 CC EndBracket CC but also threatens Rc6 followed by Ne5 with positionally winning game. 31...Bd6 Black defends the pawn on e5 and consequently the Knight on c6, although, it weakens the h4-d8 diagonal as well as control of the g5 outpost! 32.h4 Points out the weakness of the g5 square and slowly preparing for a jump on the Kingside! Also, pay attention to how the Knights are ideally connected without the possibility for Black to ever sacrifice an exchange on f3! 32...Rc7 33.Ng5 White clears the way for the Knight on h2 to finally bring it into the game with Nhf3, and could even prepare some Kingside breaks with Rg1 and g4 eventually. 33...Nxg5 34.Bxg5 Be7 35.Nf3 Qd6 36.g3 Bxg5 37.Nxg5 Rfc8 38.Qd2 Nd8 39.Rxc7+ Qxc7 40.b5 Much better was 40.Qa2! pointing out a weakness on e6 where Black would have to defend himself harder. 40...Qc2 40...Qc3! would be way better and would pretty much prevent White's activity. 41.Qb4 A great display of an experienced player and the willingness by White to win and succeed! Grischuk finds the only active way to push for a win! 41...Qc5 42.bxa6 Qxb4 43.axb4 bxa6 44.Ra1 After all, Black has too many

weaknesses to defend and this is practically a very hard position to hold. 44...Nc6 45.Ra4 Kf6 46.Rxa6 Nxb4 47.Ra7 Reference Games-Grischuk,A I enjoyed this game because it clearly shows how one should play this similar type of position. Also, the whole game was a brilliant example of positional play and high ability by one of the top World-class players - Alexander Grischuk, not just to maneuver, but to do that on one part of the board without much space! Finally, I would like to point out one more thing, even though Grischuk won this game, we have to notice that he did that mainly thanks to his outstanding positional skills, so get ready for a hard game and lots of difficulties in a similar type of positions to gain the full point!

[50] **7...Be6** 8.Nc3 Qa5 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Qe1 Although 10.Re1 looks more logical, with this beautiful move White establishes geometrical relation between the Queens and introduces the idea of: 10...-- 11.d4 e4 11.Nxe4! 10...Rc8 And suddenly Black has no good move! The alternatives are not helping either. 10...O-O? is a mistake that instantly loses a pawn after 11.Bxf6! followed by 11...-- 12.Nxd5 and White have a clear pawn up with a clear advantage!

[10...Qc5 Black escapes from the Queen pin and prevents any discovered attacks. However, the e5 pawn is weakened now. 11.Bxf6 With this beautiful trade White forces Black to double pawns on the Kingside! gxf6 If Black insists on keeping a healthy pawn structure with 11...Nxf6 White strikes back with 12.Nxe5 d4 13.Nxf7! and Black's Bishop on e6 would be hanging as well as the Rook on h8. 12.d4 Since White concluded the development, we are able to continue with an effective center break! Black's King is still positioned in the center, and White's Queen indirectly pins it! exd4 13.Nxd5 White uses the terrible position of Black's King to permanently damage Black's pawn structure. 0-0-0 14.Qe4 And with a direct threat of Nd4 and the idea of Rad1, White is clearly better. Black faces issues with their 4 pawn islands and it is questionable how he can improve defense over the weakest d4 pawn. The ideas of White are also shown in a game Tiviakov,S-Swinkels,R Vlissingen 2004. Be5 15.Nf4 f5 16.Nxe6 fxe4 17.Nxc5 exf3 18.Nd3 fxg2 19.Rfe1 f6 20.Be6 Kb8 21.Re4 b6 22.Bxd7 Rxd7 23.Rae1 Rf8 24.Nxe5 fxe5 25.Rxe5 Rc8 26.Re8 d3 27.Rxc8+ Kxc8 28.cxd3 Rxd3 29.b3 Rd2 30.a4 Rd7 31.Kxg2 Rg7+ 32.Kf1 Rf7 33.Re4 Kd7 34.f4 Rf6 35.h3 Kd6 36.Kf2 Kd7 37.b4 Kd6 38.Kf3 Rh6 39.Kg4 Rg6+ 40.Kf5 Rg3 41.h4 Kd7 42.b5 Rg8 43.Rd4+ Ke7 44.Rc4 Kd7 45.Rc6 Rg7 46.h5 Rg8 47.Rf6 Ke7 48.Rh6 Rg7 49.Ke5 Reference Games-Tiviakov,S]

[10...d4 Black desperately tries to keep the pawn, but he won't be able to keep a healthy pawn structure! 11.Ne4 With a double attack on the Queen and the dark-squared Bishop, White forces Black to step back and defend

one of those. For that reason, Black can not prevent the forthcoming 12. Bxe6 and double pawns on the e-file! Qb6 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Nxd6+ With a better pawn structure, White goes for simplification and clears the path for attacks on the weakened e5 pawn. Qxd6 14.Bh4 White's idea is Bg3, and it is questionable how will Black improve defense over the hanging e5 pawn. One should not forget that Black is late with development, and White has a clearly better position with the active play, as it could be seen in a game Fedorov, A -Mamedjarova, T Baku 2008. Rc8 15.Bg3 Rxc2 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 Qd5 18.Qd1 Rc6 19.Re1 0-0 20.h3 Nd7 21.Bg3 Qb5 22.Qg4 Qd5 23.Rac1 Re8 24.Rxc6 bxc6 25.b4 Nf6 26.Qe2 Nd7 27.Qe4 Nf6 28.Qxd5 Nxd5 29.a3 Kf7 30.Be5 Ra8 31.Bxd4 a5 32.bxa5 Rxa5 33.Rb1 Rxa3 34.Rb7+ Ke8 35.Rxg7 Rxd3 36.Be5 h5 37.Rh7 c5 38.Rxh5 c4 39.Rh4 c3 40.Rc4 Kf7 41.h4 Rd2 42.h5 Re2 43.Bh8 c2 44.Bb2 e5 45.g3 Nf6 46.Rc7+ Ke6 47.h6 Kf5 48.Kg2 Kg6 49.Bc1 Ng4 50.Rg7+ Kf5 Reference Games-Fedorov,A]

11.d4 White reacts in the center and aims to open the e-file, pinning Black's King. After possible exchanges or advances by Black, the pawn on d5 will be weakened.

11...e4 Black is practically forced to block the center with this move, and the pawn on d5 will be a possible target now. If Black instead continues with 11...Bb4 aiming to damage White's pawn structure on the Queenside, after 12.Bd2 White threatens to play a3 putting Queen on a5 into a pin. The only move is 12...Bxc3 13.Bxc3 and in the game between Delchev, A-Jovanic, O Zadar 2004 Black went for an exchange sacrifice with 13... Rxc3 14.bxc3 e4 and White struck back with 15.Ng5! and threats of Ne6 and pawn break with f3 or c4 . After 15...O-O 16. c4 Qxe1 17.Raxe1 h6 18.Nxe6 fxe6 White is winning with 19.f3 with the decisive advantage of an exchange up.

[11...Bb4 12.Bd2 Bxc3 13.Bxc3 Rxc3 14.bxc3 e4 15.Ng5 0-0 16.c4 Qxe1 17.Raxe1 h6 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.f3 exf3 20.Rxf3 Rc8 21.cxd5 exd5 22.Re7 Rd8 23.Rg3 g5 24.Rf3 Reference Games-Delchev,A]

12.Nxe4 Thanks to the poorly placed Bd6 White wins a pawn, but we will not stop here! Black is in huge trouble with badly positioned pieces and White can use it to win the game within a few moves, as it will be shown here! 12...Qb6 13.Nxd6+ Qxd6 14.Bd2 White gained the Bishop pair advantage and aims to continue with Bb4. Black can not castle anymore and there is no possible activity for him here!

14...Ne4 15.Bb4 We took full control over dark squares and the Bishop on b4 can not be moved away!

15...Qf4 16.c4 With the Bishop pair on the board every opening of the position is good for White. For that reason, we do not care about material, and we continue with pressure on the Black's King!

16...dxc4 17.Ba4 White's Bishops are now perfectly positioned and we

have a direct threat of Ne5! Black practically needs to move the King away, but there is no good way to escape the pins! 17...Kd8 18.Ne5 Nb6 19.g3 Reference Games-Giri,A And at the moment when it looked like Black will have a break from the Bishops, he faces issues with the hanging Knight on e4 which can not be defended anymore. Jones,R was forced to resign here against Giri,A in a game played in Warsaw 2013.

[51] **10.Nb5** And when it looked like Black consolidated with 10...Be6 White goes for a timed jump attacking the defender of another central pawn! Black's dark-squared Bishop has no retreat to b8, and can not move away from the attack due to a hanging e5 pawn. In that manner, White will very soon enjoy a steady advantage of the Bishop pair in a fairly open position. It is obvious that the main targets of White's attack will be central e5 and d5 pawns as it was seen in the game Fenwick, J-Hofer, R W-ch ICCF email 2015. 10...Nc6 11.Nxc7 Qxc7 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.d4 e4 14.Nh4 a5 15.c3 Kh8 16.g3 Rg8 17.Ng2 Ne7 18.Qd2 a4 19.Bd1 a3 20.bxa3 Rxa3 21.Bb3 Ng6 22.f3 f5 23.Qg5 Rg7 24.Kh1 Reference Games-Fenwick,J

[52] **6...Bd6** If Black decides to retreat the Bishop, not only that he loses one tempo, but White is able to continue with the most active development, Nc3, O-O Re1. 7.Nc3 Of course, White is not missing the opportunity to increase the pressure on d5, and now Black has a huge decision to make- shall they advance with d4, shall the center open up with dxe4, or shall they keep the tension by defending d5? 7...dxe4 Although the position looks innocuous now, as it will be shown, White is able to launch a tremendous attack!

[7...d4 Black takes a small psychological victory, forcing us to play with the Knight once again. Closing the center looks like the safest option for Black, but at this point, White revealed the Bishop on b3 eyeing the Kingside. 8.Ne2 The Knight heads to g3, eyeing an opportunity to jump to f5 after preparation with Nh4. The pawn breaks c2-c3 and f2-f4 later are also on the cards, as White aims to open the position with actions on the Kingside. Nbd7 Black does not hurry with castling, and threatens Nc5 as White has only a few options to keep the light-squared Bishop in play. If Black plays instead 8...O-O White can continue with normal development 9.O-O, followed by Ng3, Nh4, Nf5. 9.0-0 For sure we do not want to go here with the suspicious 9.c3?! since it would lead anyway to 9...Nc5 when Black attacks the Bishop on b3 and d3-pawn. After 10.Bc2 Black has great initiative after 10...Nfxe4! followed by d3. 0-0 Black continues with development, putting the King into safety. However, it was possible for him to continue with 9...Nc5 as well, but after 10.c3 White has a nice possibility to undermine the center. If Black accepts to take the pawn on d3 with 10...Nxd3 after 11. cxd4 exd4 12.Bxf7! is on the board,

and after 12...Kxf7 13.Qb3 comes with a double attack on the King and Knight on d6. 10.h3 White wants to be sure that Black will not have Bg4 after moving the Knight from d7. At this point, he is ready to continue with the plan of Ng3-Nf5. A good alternative for White could be 10.a3 first, ensuring that light squared Bishop will stay in the game after 10... Nc5 11.Ba2 and if Black goes for suspicious 11...Be6?! White would continue with 12.b4! when Black needs to move the attacked Knight away, and after trades on e6, the doubled pawns will be problematic. a5 Black chooses different way to chase the Bishop on b3, and White has time now to create a shelter! 11.a3 Now White is back on track and can obtain the advantage by storming the f5 outpost with a Knight. Afterwards, White can continue with a center break with f4, opening the f-file and gaining activity on the Kingside, as it was planned. a4 12.Ba2 b5 Black needs to search for a counterattack on the Queenside since he does not have well positioned pieces on the Kingside. However, that will not stop us to maneuver the Knight on the f5 outpost, and to go for the f4 advance. 13.Ng3 White is ready to jump with Nf5! Nb6 Black uses the opportunity to try to stop Nf5, but this will not be that easy as it sounds. It is a fact that White can not immediately proceed with the desirable move, because Black's light squared Bishop controls the f5 square now. But as it was mentioned before, White will use another Knight to improve control over this square. 14.Nh4 c5 15.Nhf5 As mentioned, another Knight joined the game and Black could not stop this approach anymore. Besides that, White now aims to proceed with f4, opening the f-file, and starting the attack on the Kingside. Black is practically forced to trade, to make sure that White will not have enough pieces to gain the initiative. Bxf5 16.Nxf5 g6 At the first sight, Black holds the f5 square and moves the Knight away. On the other hand, one should not forget that White now gains a long-term Bishop pair advantage, and Black will face difficulties with weak dark squares around the King. 17.Nxd6 Qxd6 18.f4 With the Bishop pair on the board, White certainly aims to open the position, and to make space for his Bishops. If Black accepts to take the pawn, White will gain full control over dark squares and the f-file, but have in mind that White might also continue here with 19.f5 instead, seizing space on the Kingside, and threatening to create a tremendous attack there! To get familiar with possible ideas here I would recommend to check the game Nouri, H-Kovalev, V Subic Bay 2016. Nfd7 19.Qg4 Kh8 20.f5 c4 21.Bb4 Qc6 22.Bxf8 Rxf8 23.Qh4 Kg7 24.Rf3 Qf6 25.Qe1 g5 26.Qb4 Qc6 27.f6+ Kh8 28.Rf5 Rg8 29.Raf1 h6 30.h4 gxh4 31.Qe7 Qe6 32.Qxe6 fxe6 33.Rh5 Kh7 34.f7 Rf8 35.Rxh4 Nc5 36.Rf3 Nc8 37.Rh5 Nd7 38.dxc4 Kg7 39.Rfh3 Kf6 40.cxb5 Ke7 41.Rxh6 Nc5 42.R3h5 Kd6 43.Rh8 Nd7 44.R5h6 Reference Games-Nouri,H]

8.Ng5 Get ready for a crushing attack

and believe it or not, one of my favorite games in this opening! Because of this game, I started to like and play Bishop's opening! Everything happened, while I was a commentator for Montreal Chessbrah and who could be better to follow but at that time our first board - Fabiano Caruana back in 2018 when he was in his best shape ever! White wins a tempo now and attacks the vulnerable f7 spot. All White's pieces will move towards the Kingside as it will be shown soon! You should be aware that White's idea is not to move the Knight from g5 back to a center, but to continue with attack after Nce4, Bg5, and possibly Qh5 later on! 8...0-0 9.Ncxe4 As it was already said, White keeps both Knight in play on the Kingside aiming to create a tremendous mating attack! Taking the pawn with 9.Ngxe4 would give Black chances to keep the tension with 9...Be7 , and he would have time for development and defense. 9...Be7 Black is aware that White tends to continue the attack with Qh5 and Bh5. For that reason, he wants to make sure that Knight on c6 is supported for a while. Anyway, that does not stop White's attack who now turns to a pawn-storm attack!

[9...Nxe4 If Black tries to trade off one of White's attacking pieces immediately, White will just go on for the plan of Qh5 and pawn-storm on Black's King! 10.Nxe4 White for sure does not want to take with a pawn here, since then Black would have time to toggle Knight into defense after Nd7-Nf6. This way, White keeps dark-squared Bishop open, with a threat of Bg5, Qh5, h4, g4, and a huge attack on Kingside! Bc7 With this move Black wants to be sure that he keeps contact with the e5 pawn, and he will not lose any tempo defending it. On the other hand, Black completely surrendered the g5 square now. Instead, Black could go for 10...Be7 preventing Ng5 for the time being, but he will be tied up and the e5-pawn will fall down after 11. Qh5! which comes with the idea of h4 and Ng5. If Black gets ready for it with 11...Nd7 White will simply gain a clearly better position with a developing move of 12.O-O with a new plan now- Rae1 and Bc3, with huge pressure on the e5-pawn which can be hardly defended now. 11.Qh5 White's idea is simple but brutal - play Bg5, Nf6, Bf6, and Qg5 checkmate! Qe7 12.g4 Since Black toggled the Queen into defense, White chooses to continue with a very important preparatory move that takes away f5 and g4 off from the Black's Queen. Immediate 12.Bg5 does not work due to 12...Qd7 when the Queen will get to f5 or g4 right on time to defend the Kingside. a5 Black puts the last hopes to create a counterattack on the Queenside, but White just does not care about it now! 13.Bg5 Black can not block this attack with a pawn, due to a pinned Knight, and White takes full control over the dark squares and goes for the previously mentioned idea of Bg5, followed by Nf6! Qe8 If Black tries to attack the g4-pawn with 13...Qd7 White easily gains a huge advantage with 14.Rg1 killing all the hopes for

Black. 14.Nf6+ And finally, there is no defense anymore! gxf6 15.Bxf6 Black needed to open the King, and there is no hope for him since we threaten to mate with Qg5-Qg7! The game is over after only 15 moves of play! 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d]

10.h4 A very important move for the White's setup as he will want to recapture on g5 CC StartBracket CC should Black take with the bishop or h6-hxg5 CC EndBracket CC with the pawn and open the h-file. 10...Nbd7 Trying to exchange both pairs of knights on e4, if possible. Black would also be happy to trade one pair of knights and bring his defender to f6.

[10...Na6 This is an interesting attempt but it also falls short after precise play. Black's idea is to play Nc5 and trade the knight on e4, while keeping his other knight defending the Kingside from the good square f6. 11.Nxf6+ White immediately trades the defender and clears the way for the Queen to reach the desired h5-square. Bxf6 12.Qh5 With a direct mate threat of Qh7 White also pressures the f7 pawn which is hanging now and Black needs to react! Bxg5 This is practically the only way for Black to keep the game going, as the Knight on g5 is too dangerous. One should not forget that Black immediately loses if he instead plays 12...h6 due to 13.Nxf7! 13.hxg5 With a tremendous attack along the h-file and the Bishop pair on the board, White is clearly better. The idea for White is simple, O-O-O, Rde1, and of course Qf3 if Black moves it away after Bf5-Bg6. 1) Bishop's Opening 2... Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d]

11.Qf3 Since the h5 spot is not available anymore for the Queen, White goes for activation through the f3 square! This excellent move prevents exchanges and allows us to build a strong attack! 11...Qe8 Black needs to cover the f7-spot before the trade with Ne4 . If he immediately goes for 11...Nxe4 12. Bxf7! comes with a check! 12.0-0-0 Not only that White concludes development with this move, but goes for the further activation while Black is locked on the back rank! The Rook will come to the e-file with Rde1 pressuring the e5-pawn. There is also a possible center advance of d4, when the Black's Queen on e8 will be indirectly pinned. 12...a5 Black needs to try to gain any activity and his only possibility is to hunt the light-squared Bishop with pawns. However, this is just a temporary threat that can be easily stopped.

13.a3 White is ready for possible a4 advance and has a nice safe spot for the light-squared Bishop. That means that we can continue with the attack very soon! 13...Nd5

14.Rde1 White just ignores Black's moves now and already threatens to go for d4! White just ignores Black's moves now and already threatens to go for d4! Full line! 14...h6 Black practically needs to go with direct activities. Any other move would be faced with 15.d4 and if Black accepts the sacrifice, Nd6! comes with an unbearable attack

on the f7-spot! 15.Ng3 Black's King is so weakened that White desirably waits for him to take the offer of the hanging Knight! With a beautiful relocation of the Knight to f5, White threatens to continue with well-known d4! 15...Ra6 It is obvious that Black got lost here. Accepting the sacrifice leads to a winning position for White after 15...hxg5? 16.hxg5 Bxg5 17.Nf5 with a threat of Qh5 or Qh3 and there will be no defense of the h-file anymore! 16.Nf5 At this point, it is clear that Black can not hold the pressure. All the White's pieces are active and turned to attack of the King, while Black has no possibility to strike back. 16...f6 17.Ne6 We have already extensively analyzed this line in the theoretical section of the book! Faced with such pressure, it is not surprising that Akobian, V blundered with 16...f6 in a game played against Caruana Fabiano in chess.com INT game 2017. White easily wins now with two threats- Nf8 or Nc7 and Black can not save the exchange! 17...Nc5 Akobian attempts to release the pressure at least by removing the Bishop on b3 from the a2-g8 diagonal, but the downside is that the Kingside is about to be absolutely shattered! 18.Nexg7 King becomes vulnerable and left without proper defense. 18...Nxb3+ 19.cxb3 Qg6 20.Rh3 Even though the position looks completely winning for White, with this nice move White adds another piece into the attack and Black is about to get mated after Rg3 or be faced with serious material consequences. 20...Bxf5 21.Nxf5 Kh7 22.Rg3 Qf7 23.Nxh6 Reference Games-Caruana,F Of all of the model games that I analyzed in this course, this one is my absolute favorite! I was an official commentator of the ProLeague for the Chessbrah Twitch channel and Caruana was playing our top board. On top of all that, this was one of the crucial games, and Caruana made this game look pretty convincing and smooth! Ever since that moment, I realized, the Bishop's opening is going to become one of my main White weapons!

53 **7...Nbd7** This is a normal developing move that also protects e5. However, White has a great continuation, and we will use the fact that the Knight on d7 looks clumsy, closing the light squared Bishop on c8. 8.exd5 White immediately tries to open up the center. The point is that we use the fact that Black's Knight can not transfer to the most active square on c6, after the trade of the central pawns! Despite that, Black's central pawns will be targets of White's attacks. 8...cxd5 The two pawns only look nice, but it will be nearly impossible to defend them properly, as it will be shown later! 9.0-0 0-0 Of course, both sides conclude development and aim to put the Rook on the e-file. 10.Re1 a5 Black struggles to find the lesser evil. A defensive move such as 10...Re8 is met with 11.Nc3 and Black is forced to play 11...d4 to save

the pawn, but then White goes for 12.Nb5! with the devastating threat of 12...-- 13.Nd6! 11.Nc3 White once again threatens Black's vulnerable center and Black can not keep it anymore! 11...d4 This is practically the only way for Black to protect the pawn, since both e5 and d5 are hanging. 12.Nb5 The e5-pawn is hopelessly weak and Black's pieces are terribly placed. White can continue with a4, establishing the Knight on the beautiful b5 outpost. One should not forget that Nd6 and Qg5 are both on the cards as it could be seen in the game Short, N -Anton Guijarro, D Madrid 2016. With all of the active pieces are in the game, Black is stuck with a problematic back rank and development difficulties, White has a clear advantage and easy play here. 12...Qb6 13.Bc4 Qc5 14.c3 Nb6 15.Nxe5 Nxc4 16.dxc4 dxc3 17.Qxc3 Be6 18.Nd4 Rfe8 19.h3 b6 20.Nxe6 Rxe6 21.Nd3 Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 Qc7 23.b3 Rd8 24.Ne5 h6 25.Qc1 Rd4 26.Nf3 Rd6 27.Qf4 Qd8 28.Kh2 Qd7 29.Re2 Qd8 30.g3 Rd1 31.Rd2 Rxd2 32.Qxd2 Qe7 33.Kg2 Nd7 34.Qe3 Qxe3 35.fxe3 Kf8 36.Nd4 Ke7 37.Kf3 g6 38.g4 Kd6 39.Kf4 Nc5 40.Nb5+ Ke6 41.e4 g5+ 42.Ke3 Ke5 43.Nd4 f6 44.a3 Na6 45.Nf3+ Kd6 46.Kd4 Nc5 47.b4 axb4 48.axb4 Ne6+ 49.Ke3 Nf4 50.h4 Ng2+ 51.Kf2 Nf4 52.hxg5 hxg5 53.Ke3 Ne6 54.Ne1 Nd8 55.Nd3 Nc6 56.Ke2 Nd4+ 57.Kd2 Nf3+ 58.Ke3 Nh2 59.Nf2 Kc6 60.e5 fxe5 61.Ke4 Kd6 62.Kf5 Nf3 63.Ne4+ Ke7 64.Nxg5 Nd4+ 65.Ke4 b5 66.cxb5 Kf6 67.b6 Kxg5 68.b7 Nc6 69.b5 Nb8 70.Kxe5

Reference Games-Short,N

7...0-0 Black tries a good practical attempt to castle quickly and speed up the development without caring about the pawn. 8.Nxe5 But of course, we will not miss the opportunity to take the material advantage and we will fight badly to keep it! This move scores fascinating in the practice!

[8.exd5 Nxd5 9.0-0 Nd7 As usual, both players want to have the Rooks on the e-file as soon as possible. 10.Nc3 Black faces difficulties already at this point of the game. The fact is that the Knight on d5 is tied for the e5 pawn and can not support the Knight on d5. At the same time, Black is late with development of the Queenside for the same reason! Nf4 Black tries to find another way to centralize the Knight. Instead, a natural move such as 10...Nxc3 loses practically by force to 11.Qxc3 with an attack on the e5-pawn, and after 11...Qf6 12. Rfe1 Re8 13.Re4 White is ready to double the Rooks on the e-file and ramp up the pressure on the vulnerable e5-spot. Black can not activate the Knight on d7 as well as the Bishop on c8, since his pieces are tied to the defensive duties. One should not forget that f6 is impossible due to a pin by Bb3, and Black can only wait for White to go for a central advance with d4! 11.Rfe1 White just goes for natural moves concluding development. The plan is to overload the e5 pawn, transfer the Knight through e4 square to g3, from where we can make the timely jump with Nf5. As it is typical for these positions, White can always think about the d4

break, undermining Black's Knight on f4. Qf6 Black needs to try to protect both e5 and f4 squares. If he goes for the natural 11...Re8 , White has an immediate break with 12.d4! and a huge advantage since Black can not handle the pressure on the e4 pawn anymore. Of course 12...Ng6 is met with 13.Ng5 followed by a harsh attack on the f7-spot! 12.Ne4 White gets every opportunity to centralize pieces with tempo attacks. Black's Queen on f6 looks vulnerable now, and White wants to exploit as much as possible! Qh6 13.Qe3 Although this move might look weird, White just aims to improve the position of all the pieces. One should not forget that if White goes for 13.g3 Qh5 , Black takes chances for a good play, so do not fall into it! Kh8 Black finally decides to move the King from the pin, so he can be able to support the e5 pawn with f6. That is the only way for Black to unlock the Knight from d7 and the Bishop from the starting position! 14.Ng3 Of course, this action does not stop us to continue with the previously mentioned plan of Ng3- with possibility of uncomfortable Nf5 and d4! f6 15.d4 And finally White takes full control over the game. Black is once again faced with an attack on the e5 square, and needs to accept to open the position. The Queen on h6 is placed badly and will be under attack after the forthcoming Nf5. The light-squared Bishop on b3 controls all the light squares in Black's position, and White is just clearly better. The further continuation from this point could be seen in a game Alekseenko, K -Zarnicki,P Moscow 2019. exd4 16.Qxd4 Nb6 17.Re4 Ng6 18.a4 Nd7 19.Nf5 Qh5 20.Nd6 Nde5 21.Nxe5 fxe5 22.Qc4 h6 23.Rae1 Kh7 24.c3 Bf5 25.Nxf5 Qxf5 26.R4e2 Kh8 27.Bc2 Qf6 28.Qe4 Kh7 29.h4 h5 30.g4 Reference Games-Alekseenko,K]

8...Qe7 Black aims to use indirectly pinned King to gain activity, but that is not that easy! If Black continues with 8...dxe4 the game transposes to 7...dxe4?! 9.f4 It is very important to emphasize that the Knight on the e5 outpost is a great asset and we need to try to keep it there while Black fights to move it away. 9...dxe4 Now it is clear that we can not keep the material advantage, but it is the fact that the e4 pawn will be exposed to attacks now. 10.d4 We choose to keep the files closed while the King is in the center. In addition, the Knight is being further fortified and the e4 pawn will be White's target!

10...Nd5

[10...Be6 This is quite a solid attempt by Black who would like to simplify the game and make his position relatively easier. I do not see anything that special about it and White has few alternatives to get a better position such as 11.c4!? with crazy game or 11.Bxe6 & 11.Nc3 & 11.O-O with a tiny bit better but a long-lasting advantage for White. 11.c4 *(11.Nc3* I believe that White has a slightly better game thanks to a solid pawn structure, strong Knight on e5 supported by the d4 and f4 pawns, potentially weak pawn on e4 that stands 'in the middle of nowhere' and

which could turn out to be under fire at some point and the possibility by White to launch Kinsgide attack with g4 afterward! There is another interesting wild possibility for all those who enjoy crazy chess after 11. c4 Nh5!? 12.f5!? Bxf5 13.O-O g6 14.g4!? like it was seen in the game Cruzado Duenas - Hatzl ICCF email 2016.) 11...Nh5 12.f5 Bxf5 13.0-0 g6 14.g4 f6 15.c5+ Kg7 16.Nf7 e3 17.Re1 exd2 18.Rxe7 d1Q+ 19.Bxd1 Rxf7 20.Rxf7+ Kxf7 21.gxf5 Na6 22.Nc3 Rd8 Reference Games-Cruzado Duenas,C]

11.0-0 This move played by Karjakin shows how White can stay calm here, playing for a long-term advantage of the better pawn structure. However, it is a good alternative for White to continue with 11.Nc3 with a direct threat on Black's center, and if Black continues with 11...Be6 White gains a clearly better position with 12.f5! knocking Black out of balance. The point is that Black can not keep the d5 blockade any longer. 11...f6 Black desperately tries to move the Knight away but one should not forget that after White improves the attack on the vulnerable e4 pawn, Black will be forced to defend it with f5, which reveals once again an outpost on e5! 12.Nc4 Kh8 Faced with a strong light-squared Bishop, Black decides to evacuate the King from the long diagonal. Anyway, Black's pawn structure is a bit over-extended and it presents a constant target for White pieces. Black also can play 12...f5!? in which case White plays 13.Ne5! and gets the great e5 outpost for the Knight, comes back straight into the center, and supports c4 with further pressure against seemingly strong and stable center by Black, as it happened in the game Fedorov, A - Zhileykin Voronezh 2015.

[12...f5 13.Ne5 Be6 14.c4 Nb6 15.Nc3 N8d7 16.d5 Qc5+ 17.Kh1 Rad8 18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.dxe6 Ne5 20.Qe2 Nd3 21.g4 Rfe8 22.gxf5 Qxf5 23.Qxe4 Qc5 24.Qe2 Kh8 25.Rad1 Nb4 26.Ne4 Qf5 27.Rxd8 Rxd8 28.e7 Reference Games-Fedorov,A]

13.Nc3 Once again White continues with active moves and the idea is obvious: Rae1 coming with unberable attack on the e4 pawn!

13...Nxc3 Black decides that the best opportunity is to remove the attacking piece. However, White should not be concerned about this one, as the Queen will land to an even better square now! 14.Qxc3 As it was already mentioned, White's Queen gains a nice spot after the trade. If Black allows it, the Queen is ready to swing to the Kingside with Qg3 or Qh3 if Black's light squared Bishop gets blocked after f5. As it was already mentioned, White's Queen gains a nice spot after the trade. If Black allows it, the Queen is ready to swing to the Kingside with Qg3 or Qh3 if Black's light squared Bishop gets blocked after f5. Full line can be found here 14...f5 Black is practically forced to solidify the e4-pawn but now the e5 outpost is again available for the Knight!

15.Ne5 Be6 16.Qh3 As mentioned, Black's pawn structure is such that the attacking motives are presented by themselves.White has a very direct threat of Ng6! and Black needs to lose another move to prevent it. 16...Kg8 17.g4 Black is behind with development and his pawns are poorly placed, therefore it is a perfect time for such a strike against the Black's King. White mounts a very strong attack. As it was seen in a game between Karjakin,S -Fridman,D Istanbul 2012, White has a direct threat of gxf5, Rae1 since Black's King is pinned. 17...fxg4 18.Qxg4 Bxb3 19.axb3 Na6 20.Rae1 Nc7 21.Rxe4 Ne8 22.Qd7 Qxd7 23.Nxd7 Rf7 24.Ne5 Re7 25.Ree1 Nd6 26.Nd3 Rf7 27.c3 Raf8 28.Re6 Nb5 29.Rfe1 g6 30.Kg2 Nc7 31.Re7 Nd5 32.Rxf7 Rxf7 33.Re8+ Kg7 34.Kg3 Nf6 35.Rb8 Ne4+ 36.Kg2 Kh6 37.b4 Kh5 38.Re8 Nd6 39.Re3 Nf5 40.Re5 a6 41.h3 h6 42.Nf2 g5 43.fxg5 Nh4+ 44.Kf1 hxg5 45.Re8 Ng6 46.Re3 Nf4 47.Kg1 Nd5 48.Re8 Nf4 49.Kh2 Kg6 50.Re5 Rh7 51.Kg3 Nh5+ 52.Kg4 Nf6+ 53.Kf3 Nd5 54.Re6+ Kf5 55.Rd6 Nf4 56.Ne4 Ne6 57.Rxe6 Rxh3+ 58.Kg2 Re3 59.Re5+ Kf4 60.Nc5 Reference Games-Karjakin, S

7...Qd6 Black plays similarly to the mainline, but White's Queenside is not compromised without a5 on the board. As it will be seen soon, White might go for O-O-O afterward without fear that Black will have counterplay there! 8.Qg5 Yes, we break some standard opening rules, playing with the Queen twice and even exposing it to possibly unpleasant attacks. We do not want to simply win a pawn, actually, we might even not be able to keep it. Instead, we want to force some sort of resolution in the center that would leave Black with a structural weakness! 8...Nbd7 Black decides to defend the e5 pawn, and he is not worried about the hanging g7-pawn because he would be able to create an initiative if White decides to take it. Instead, 8...dxe4? would be bad since it opens the diagonal for the light squared Bishop and after 9.Qxg7 the f7-pawn hangs. Black needs to defend it with 9...Rf8 10.dxe4 and White is much better after Nbd2–Nc4, O-O-O, and decisive attack.

[8...0-0 Black does not care about the e5-pawn as he will easily regain the material. However, White has a clever way to establish a strong central presence. 9.Qxe5 Qxe5 10.Nxe5 dxe4 Have in mind that 10...Re8 is bad as after 11.f4 Black cannot take on e4 because the f7 pawn would hang! 11.d4 As seen in several other similar setups, by keeping the files closed and supporting the Knight's outpost on e5, White can get a clear advantage in most of the lines. The e4 pawn will come under attack and f7 is also sensitive. c5 Black decides to immediately undermine the well-positioned Knight. *(11...Nbd7* If Black tries to remove the Knight from e5 with the Knights trade, White will simply continue with development. *12.Nc3* With a clever developing move we prevent Black's idea of 12...Nxe5 due to 13.dxe5 Ng4 14.Nxe4 which

transposes to the mainline and game Svidler-Navara. *Nb6 13.0-0-0 Nbd5* The purpose of this long maneuver is to trade the Knight on c3 and to reduce pressure on the e4 pawn. However, White will continue with the activation of pieces, playing an endgame with good chances. *14.Rde1* The eternal question, which Rook? As the d-file is semi-closed and d4-pawn is safe at the moment, it is logical to use this Rook to press e4, and the other one will support the upcoming pawn advance on the King's flank. *Nxc3 15.bxc3* White should not be worried about double pawns at the moment since Black has no way to reach them. At the same time, Black should worry about the e4 weakness, as it will be attacked soon! *Bf5 16.h3* White prepares to push g4, putting Black's light-squared Bishop into a passive position. With the following g5 afterward, Black will not have a defender of the e4-pawn anymore! *Rad8 17.g4 Bc8* The Bishop on g6 will quickly come under fire by the h-pawn push. It is also under the Ne5 scope. The Bishop goes back to the starting position, but at least Black connected the Rooks. *18.Kb2* White defends the c3 pawn, putting the King into an active square and prevents Nd5. With a direct threat of g5 to win the e4 pawn, Black faces trouble. The Black position is nearly critical as he cannot hold onto so many weaknesses and White is clearly better. 1) Bishop's Opening 2... Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2. Nf6: 3. d3*)* 12.dxc5 White takes the pawn, although Black will take it back soon. Meanwhile, we will have time to improve the position of the pieces and to conclude development with an attack on the e4 weakness! Nbd7 After trades Black will improve the attack on the c5 pawn, but at the same time, the e4 pawn will be unprotected! 13.Nxd7 Nxd7 14.Nc3 As it was previously mentioned, White just continues with active development moves and immediately pressures Black's central pawn. Nxc5 15.Bd5 Even though it looked like Black took the material back with tempo attack on the light-squared Bishop and with the defense of the hanging pawn, White strikes back with centralization! Be6 16.Bxe6 Nxe6 17.Nxe4 After the forced sequence White is a clear pawn up as it was seen in a game Leko, P -Gelfand, B Yerevan 2008, with a clear advantage and easy endgame. Rad8 18.Rd1 Rxd1+ 19.Kxd1 f5 20.Nd2 Kf7 21.g3 g5 22.c3 Kf6 23.Kc2 h5 24.h4 g4 25.b4 Rc8 26.Nb3 f4 27.Rd1 Ng7 28.Nc5 Nf5 29.gxf4 Nxh4 30.Rh1 Ng2 31.Rxh5 Nxf4 32.Ne4+ Ke6 33.Rg5 b6 34.Rxg4 Rf8 35.Rg7 Kd5 36.f3 a5 37.Rg5+ Kc6 38.b5+ Kc7 39.Rg7+ Kb8 40.Nd6 Nd5 41.Rf7 Rd8 42.Nc4 Rc8 43.Kd3 Rd8 44.Ne5 Kc8 45.a4 Nc7+ 46.Kc2 Nd5 47.Kb3 Re8 48.Nc4 Re6 49.Rf5 Nc7 50.f4 Kb7 51.Rf7 Rh6 52.f5 Kb8 53.Rf8+ Kb7 54.f6 Ne6 55.Rf7+ Nc7 56.Nd6+ Kb8 57.Rf8+ Ka7 58.Rc8 Ne6 59.f7 Rh4 60.Re8 Nc5+ 61.Kc2 Rh2+ 62.Kd1 Reference Games-Leko,P]

9.exd5 By taking on d5 White has a very concrete idea on his mind- advance with d4! A quick reminder that with the closed Bb3 diagonal White

cannot play 9.Qxg7 due to 9... Rg8 10.Qh6 and Black has an upper hand after Rxg2 or Nxe4. 9...cxd5 10.d4 It is curious to note that in the mainline, with a7-a5 and a2-a3 included, this White's plan fails! A timely a5-a4 push would completely disrupt White's coordination and the long castling. But in this particular setup, Black cannot ignore the d4 pawn and just castle as White is very quick with 11. dxe5, 12.Nc3 and 13.O-O-O. 10...e4 Black is practically forced to close the center now, but White does not go fall-back! 11.Ne5 The Queen on g5 perfectly serves the purpose of establishing the Knight outpost on e5! 11...0-0 12.Nc3 With simple developing moves White puts Black into problems. Black needs to think now about a direct threat of Nxd7 followed by Nxd5! 12...Nb6 Although it looks that Black's center is safe now, White undermines it immediately as it will be shown with the forthcoming move! 13.f3 The whole point of good positioned pieces is that White can wait with castling and uses the opportunity to attack Black's center as soon as possible. 13...Be6 Black has no other option but to continue developing. One should not forget that after 13...exf3 14. gxf3 With Rg1 coming White will have a devastating attack on the g-file. 14.0-0-0 With a long castle White puts the King into safety and prepares for an attack on the e4 pawn after Rhe1. It is questionable if Black can find a proper counterplay here. 14...Rac8 This is probably the only attempt to counter-attack as Black threatens the nasty Dragon-like Rc3, with Qa3, Na4 or Nc4, Rc8. This is not the scenario which White wants to see and for that reason, White needs to stop with attacks for a while, and goes back into defense! 15.Qd2 With a simple step-back move, the Knight on c3 is defended and we can easily continue with the previously mentioned plan of Rhe1! 15...a6 16.Rhe1 And it is obvious that Black can not hold the center anymore. He needs to go for the opening of the g-file which will be used for the attack on the Black's King! 16...exf3 17.gxf3 Not only that White managed to open the g-file, but also we prevent any kind of liberating Ne4 jumps. Meanwhile, the Knight on e5 is eternal and can not be moved away! 17...Nfd7 18.h4 Black is late with counterplay and White starts a killer attack on the g and h-files as it could be seen in a game Xiong,J -Duda,J Khanty-Mansiysk 2019. The idea of White is simple, after the h5-h6 threat, we will toggle the pieces to a Kingside with Qg2-Rg1. One should not forget that in such positions, Kb1 is always a desirable prophylactic move that avoids possible complications on Queenside. 18...f6 19.Nd3 Bf7 20.Qf4 Rc6 21.Qxd6 Rxd6 22.Nc5 Rb8 23.Re7 Kf8 24.Rde1 Nxc5 25.dxc5 Rd7 26.Rxf7+ Kxf7 27.cxb6 Rbd8 28.Nxd5 Kg6 29.c4 Kh5 30.Re4 Rc8 31.Kd2 g5 32.Ke3 Rf7 33.hxg5 fxg5 34.Ba4 Kh6 35.Be8 Rf8 36.Bd7 Rb8 37.b4 Kg6 38.Nc7 Rfd8 39.Re7 Rh8 40.Be8+ Kf6 41.Nd5+

Reference Games-Xiong,J

7...dxe4 This is a suspicious move that takes Black straight into a bad position, as it will be seen soon! 8.Nxe5 White takes the central pawn with an immediate attack on the f7 vulnerable square. It looks that Black has no many issues with it after a simple defending and developing move, but the truth is different! 8...0-0 9.Nxf7 This temporary sacrifice is the point of White's play! 9...Rxf7 10.dxe4 White decides that there is no need to hurry, the Rook can't run away. The contact between the Queens makes this neat recapture possible. 10...Qxd2+ It is a logical continuation for Black to trade Queens, thinking that he has a material advantage after White takes the Rook. But one should not forget that White has two pawns and a Rook against two pieces in a pretty simplified endgame. For that reason, the engine evaluation after the trades favors White! If Black decides to keep the Queens on the board 10... Qe7 11.Bxf7+ Kxf7 12.f3 White gains a clear advantage. Black's Bishop is severely limited by White pawns, while the Knights cannot get a hold of good outposts. White's heavy piece will breakthrough on the d-file CCStartBracket CCon d6 or d8 CCEndBracket CC, or he will get the passed pawns CC StartBracket CC e and fCCEndBracket CC rolling. 11.Nxd2 And once again, White is clearly better with an obvious follow-up of Bf7. With the e-passed pawn, after O-O-O, and Rhe1, White will have huge initiative and it is questionable if Black can hold the pressure with two pieces against the Rook and two dangerous pawns. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d

54 **8...a4** Black can also first insert this move, but the game will not change a lot. White keeps the same idea as before, Qg5 is a threat! 9.Ba2 White's Bishop is safe and still pressures Black's center. Despite that, the a4 pawn might look clumsy later and could become the target of White's Knight on c3. 9...0-0 Black realizes that quick development is the best option to defend the center. However, White will take the opportunity to remove one of the Black's central pawns, with the centralization of the Knight! Instead of development move, 9...dxe4?! would be a mistake due to 10.Nxe5 O-O 11. Nxf7! Rxf7 12.dxe4 Qe7 13.Bxf7 Kxf7 14.f3 with a slight advantage since Black's Bishop is severely limited by the white pawns. The Knights can not get a hold of good outposts while White's heavy pieces will break through on the d-file. Of course, with the central passed pawn, a Rook and two pawns against two minor pieces, White definitely does not have a material deficit. 10.Nxe5 As previously mentioned, White does not hesitate to take the central pawn without fear that will hang. Whenever Black decides to take a material advantage back with dxe4, White's Bishop on b3 opens up with a harsh

attack on the f7-square! 10...Qe7 11.f4 White simply wants to keep the Knight centralized as long as possible! 11...dxe4 12.d4

[12.0-0 White concludes development with two perfect pieces on the board- the Knight on desirable outpost e5 and the Bishop that controls the long a2-g8 diagonal. Instead of 12.O-O, a good alternative could be 12.d4 , which was played in a top-level game by Pavel Eljanov. The idea of 12.d4 is that the e4-pawn is too far ahead, while Black's Queenside is under-developed. At the same time, the Rook on f8 is tied to the f7-pawn. To get familiar with ideas afterward check the game Eljanov, P -Kuzubov, Y Gladiators INT 2020, but at this point, I would suggest the more flexible 12.O-O as the better way to go. exd3 13.cxd3 White should not worry about the newly created 3rd pawn island, since Black has more issues than us here. The idea is simple, White wants to continue with Nc3, Rae1, establishing the e5 outpost with d4. If Black continues with 13...Be6 trying to trade White's good asset, we have no problems after 14.Bxe6 Qxe6 15.Nc3 Nbd7 16.Rae1 with normal development, and after 16...Qd6 17.Qf2 looks very good, with ideas like Kh1, g4, d4. Anyway, if you do not feel good after 13.cxd3 with the altered pawn structure, you can keep the pawns connected. This is also a viable possibility, but I would prefer to have the Knight on the e5-outpost as it greatly limits the Black's options. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3.d]

12...Nd5 13.Nc3 e3 14.Qe2 Nxf4 15.Qf3 Ng6 16.Nxg6 hxg6 17.0-0-0 Ra5 18.Rhe1 Rf5 19.Rxe3 Qg5 20.Qg3 Qxg3 21.hxg3 Rd8 22.Nxa4 Rf2 23.Nc5 Nd7 24.Ne4 Rxg2 25.Nd6 Nf6 26.Nxf7 Rd5 27.Ng5 Bf5 28.Bxd5+ cxd5 29.Rc3 Reference Games-Eljanov,P

8...Qd6 Black needs to employ the Queen to defend the e5 pawn. Development of the Knight looks logical but it is suspicious, since after 8...Nbd7?! 9.exd5! cxd5 10.Nc3 White gained a clear advantage with terrible pressure on Black's center, as it happened in the game Mamedov, R-Maurizzi, M EU-chT 2019. In the case of 10...Nc5 there are two possibilities: - 11.Nxe5 Nxb3 12.cxb3 - or the calm 11.Ba2 when the pawns are still hanging. 10.Nc3 10...d4 is met by the strong 11.Nb5 with 12.O–O, 13.Rfe1 and a possible Ng5.

9.Qg5 It is a fact that with this move, we break some opening rules by playing with the Queen twice, but it is all for a good reason. It is not a primitive urge to win a pawn. Actually, we are not even able to. Our idea is much more clever; we want to force the exchanges in a way that benefits us! 9...0-0 Black decides to temporarily give the e5-pawn in order to speed up the development. However, there is a neat way for White to establish a strong outpost and seize the advantage here!

[9...Nbd7 If Black decides to defend the e5 pawn, the game is very similar to line 5...Qd6 6.Qg5 Nbd7, and the only difference is that a5 and a3 are

on the board as well. White's plan is all the same here, and we still want to expose Black's central pawns to our counter-strikes! 10.exd5 As we said previously, White will, as usual, put pressure on the two central pawns as it was done in a game Xiong-Duda that was shown previously through the course. cxd5 11.Nc3 Unlike in the mentioned game Xiong-Duda, here 11.d4?! is bad as it runs into the quick 11...O-O and then the 12.-- 12...Re8 pin. If White castles long, the King's safety will be terribly weakened since Black now has the move a5 on the board that might give a counterattack possibilities. Nevertheless, White can continue with normal development and delay the d4-strike for a more convenient moment. 0-0 12.0-0 With the slight advantage for White we plan to continue Rfe1 and at the good moment push d4. Black is still struggling to complete development as its Knights are tied to a defense of the central pawns. 1) Bishop's Opening 2...Nf6: B-Bishop's opening 2...Nf6: 3. d]

10.Qxe5 White should not hesitate to enter an endgame with a pawn up! It is the truth that Black will be able to take the pawn back, but that will lead to other weaknesses, which White might use for creating a good play! 10...Qxe5 Black has to trade the Queens in order to win the pawn back, but we are ready for that! 11.Nxe5 dxe4 Just as in related lines, 11...Re8 would be bad for Black as after 12.f4 Black cannot take on e4 because the f7-spot stays unprotected! 12.d4 The whole point of White's logic behind 9.Qg5! is shown now! The files will remain closed, and the Knight is established on the e5 outpost. Meanwhile, Black's e4 pawn will come under attack, and f7 will be vulnerable as well. 12...Nbd7 Black's only chance to finish the development is to challenge the Knight on e5. However, we do not need to escape from this trade since it will lead to an attack on the Knight on f6 that defends the e5 pawn! 13.Nc3 White just continues with normal development, aiming to put King into safety after O-O-O, when the Rook will be nicely placed on the d-file! 13...Nxe5 Black finds that he has the best chances if he trades. However, it is possible to avoid the exchange with 13...Nb6 14.O-O-O , but here, White enjoys a clear advantage due to the weaknesses on e4 and f7 . The e4–pawn will be attacked by Re1 , and if Black defends it with Bf5 , then the h3–g4 advance will be crushing. 14.dxe5 Not only that with this trade, White gets to attack Nf6 that defends the e4 pawn, but also after the forthcoming O-O-O, White will have full control over the opened d-file! 14...Ng4 15.Nxe4 Nxe5 16.0-0-0 The material is even, and the pawn structure is nearly symmetrical, but White's advantage is obvious. We are ahead in development, with the Bishop on the powerful diagonal CC StartBracket CC pressuring f7CCEndBracket CC and the Rook conveniently castled on the open d-file. Black has huge trouble getting the light-squared Bishop out and

connecting the Rooks. Black might continue here with 16...Bd7 17.f4 , but then he faces issues with them both hanging Knight and Bishop; If he continues with 16...Bf5 , 17. Nd6 comes with a double attack on the b7 pawn and the Bishop on f5; The last possibility for Black to develop is to continue with 16... Bg4 17.f3 comes, and Black once again faces difficulties with the position of the Bishop. Black's Knight is also shaky and will quickly come under attack utilizing Re1 or f4. Meanwhile, White's Knight has a range of great jumps, including d6, g5, and even c5. All White's ideas and possibilities can be seen in a game between Svidler, P-Navara, D chess24.com INT 2020. 16...Bg4 17.Rde1 a4 18.Ba2 Ra5 19.Nd6 Rc5 20.Re3 Be6 21.Nxb7 Rb5 22.Nd6 Bxa2 23.Nxb5 Nc4 24.Nc3 Nxe3 25.fxe3 Bc4 26.Nxa4 Bd5 27.Rg1 Re8 28.Kd2 Rd8 29.Ke1 Be4 30.Nc5 Bxc2 31.Ke2 h5 32.e4 Rd4 33.Rc1 Rc4 34.b4 Reference Games-Svidler,P

[55] **10.Nxe4** Nxe4 11.dxe4 Qe7 12.0-0-0 0-0 13.Qd6 Re8 14.Ba2 h6 15.Qxe7 Rxe7 16.Nh4 Nf6 17.Rd8+ Kh7 18.Nf5 Rd7 19.Rxd7 Bxd7 20.Nd6 b5 21.f3 Be6 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Nf7 g5 24.Nxe5 g4 25.Nxc6 gxf3 26.gxf3 Rg8 27.Nd4 e5 28.Nc6 b4 29.axb4 axb4 30.Nxb4 Ra8 31.Kd2 Reference Games-Mamedov,R

[56] **3...d6** The Urusov Gambit is a fun, tricky opening that leads your opponents into a forest of troubles. According to my experience, a bunch of players think it might be wise for them to decline the gambit and enter an endgame as soon as possible, without thinking what an endgame would bring to them. With this move, Black tries to stabiliseze the position and avoid the tricky lines. 4.dxe5 With a lot of joy, you can accept Black's generous offer to enter a winning position after only a few moves of play! 4...dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Nf3 And with this simple development move, White is clearly better with faster development, active pieces, and two threats Nxe5 and Ng5 which can not be defended. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...d6

3...Nxe4 The last move is not Black's happiest answer to our gambit: In more than 65% of games it ended in White's favor. And yet it was a very common approach against me in Blitz lately! Also, in the past, it was even played by top Grandmasters, such as Mamedyarov Shakhriyar! 4.dxe5 Our main answer is an immediate threat of Qd5 and a double attack on Black's Knight and weakened f7 square. Black is in an uncomfortable situation and must be thinking about their badly positioned Knight and a direct mate threat - already on the 4th move! 4...Nc5 This is the most logical approach for Black, who's trying to defend the double attack and to consolidate the Knight. Black's idea is to go for Ne6, the fast development of the black-squared Bishop and castle, entering a safe zone for the king. Although Black can also play 4...c6

or the tricky 4...Qh4?! which will be deeply considered later.

[4...Bc5 Although this looks like an aggressive move for Black, it dives him straight into a losing position since the weakened f7 square allows White to create double attacks. 5.Qd5 At the same time, we threaten to mate with Qf7 and give an attack to exposed Ne4 . Black is not happy to choose between these two. It is worth mentioning that White can reach a much better position with a pawn up also with 5.Bxf7 Kxf7 6.Qd5 Kf8 7. Qxe4 , although we prefer winning a Knight over the pawn! Bxf2+ Black only delays the loss of the piece. 6.Kf1 0-0 7.Qxe4 And with a clear piece up, White will easily win. The King can be consolidated with g3-Kg2, followed by normal development Nf3, Nc3 and the rest should not be a problem, I guess : CC EndBracket CC 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 4...dx]

[4...Qh4 Judging by my Online experience lately, this move turns out to be a common answer by Black, and even though it might look dangerous with a mating threat Qxf2#, and at the same time eyeing the Bishop on c4, it is a bad move if White knows how to answer! 5.Be3 There we go - this is the move that puts Black into serious trouble. Bishop on e3 defends the weakened square f2, threatens Nf3 which would put Black's Queen in an uncomfortable position with difficulties to escape the attack. Nxf2 With this tactical attempt Black tries to launch a discovered attack by the Queen on our light-squared Bishop, but they forget that there is also some tactics on the other side of the board! If Black decides to discover-attack with the Queen with 5...Nd6 we would answer with simple Bishop escape 6.Bb3 Nc4 7.Qe2 which defends the Bishop and prepares for castling Nxe3 8.Qxe3 with a clear development advantage and the idea of Nf3, Nc3, O-O-O. 6.Bxf7+ We take the f7 pawn with check and force Black to expose the King to attacks from the widely opened center. Black will not be able to escape and castle till the end of the game. Kxf7 7.Bxf2 White is clearly better with the simple plan of Qd5, Ne2, and O-O which would put the Rook on f1 on the open f- file with many direct mate threats. Black is locked down on the 8th rank without possibilities to avoid the final scenario-mortified. You shouldn't worry about Black's checks, such as 7...Qb4 , since there is defending development move Nc3 and the plan, stays the same- Ne2, O-O, and Qd5! 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 4... dx]

5.Be3 We continue with active play threatening to overtake the Black's Knight and gain our main idea of Qd5 after the previous bishop's sacrifice Bf7! At the same time, with a simple development move, we are forcing Black to play against the basic rules of chess and to move the Knight for the fourth time within only five moves. 5...Ne6 If Black decides to continue with 5... Nc6 instead, he might face the previously described 6.Bxc5 Bxc5 7.Bxf7+! Kxf7 8.Qd5+ Ke8 9. Qxc5 with a joyful position and

huge initiative for us, and huge development problems for our opponent. 6.Nc3 White gained an ideal opening position with almost full central control, a lot of space, three actively developed pieces, and the forthcoming Qd2, O-O-O, f4 while Black is cramped on the back rank. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 4...dx

[57] **6.a3** d5 7.exd6+ Ne6 8.Nf3 Bxd6 9.Ng5 Qe7 10.Nxe6 Bxe6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Nd2 0-0 13.Ne4 Be5 14.Bg5 Qf7 15.0-0-0 Nd7 16.Kb1 h6 17.Bh4 Bc7 18.Nd6 Bxd6 19.Rxd6 Rae8 20.Re1 e5 21.Qg4 Qf4 22.Re4 Qxg4 23.Rxg4 h5 24.Ra4 Nb6 25.Re4 Rf4 26.f3 Rxe4 27.fxe4 Kf7 28.b3 Re6 29.Rd2 Rg6 30.h3 Ke6 31.c4 Nd7 32.b4 Nf6 33.Re2 Rh6 34.Kc2 Rh8 35.Re3 Rg8 36.Bg5 Rd8 37.Rd3 Rg8 38.Bxf6 gxf6 39.g3 f5 40.exf5+ Kxf5 41.a4 Rg7 42.b5 e4 43.Rd8 Rxg3 44.Rd7 cxb5 45.axb5 b6 46.Rxa7 Ke5 47.Rb7 Rg6 48.Kc3 Re6 49.Rf7 h4 50.Kd2 Kd4 51.Rh7 Kxc4 52.Rxh4 Kxb5 53.Rh8 Kb4 54.h4 e3+ 55.Ke2 b5 56.h5 Kb3 57.Rg8 Re5 58.h6 Rh5 59.Rh8 Rh3 60.h7 b4 61.Kd3 Rh6 62.Kxe3 Re6+ 63.Kf4 Re7 64.Kg5 Rb7 Reference Games-Fedorov,A

[58] **6...Be7** Black tries to develop and escape their central problems, which are visible to the naked eye. 7.0-0 b5 With 6...Be7 Black wants to escape and castle as soon as possible. On the other hand, if they indeed go for castling instead of 7...b5: 7....O-O 8.Rd1! They would be facing huge difficulties to complete their development! White would be controlling the center with a lot of space for the pieces, while Black went into a deep dark forest of development problems. That is why Black decides to chase the light-squared killer which pressures the weakened f7-square. 8.Bb3 0-0 Black has also an option to continue with a hunt on the Bishop and play 8...a5 , but then 9.c4! gives a safe spot for the light-squared Bishop and opens the position up while Black's King is still exposed in the center. After c4 White is much better thanks to the active piece and great development, which will be further improved with Nc3. Another option for Black might be 8...Nxb3 9.axb3 but with the open a-file and previously mentioned development advantages for White, Black can not be happy over here either! 9.Rd1 A great prophylactic move that doesn't allow Black to develop and activate the Bshop on c8 with d5 and makes sure that the opponent's pieces stay miserable! 9...Nxb3 If Black is stubborn to give some space to its Bishop with 9...d5 they will face 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Bg5 exposing the bad position of the Queen and after 11...Qc7 12.Rxd6! Qxd6 13.Be7 Re8 14.Bxd6 Rxe2 15.Bxc5 White will enjoy a piece up and a winning position. 10.axb3 Don't forget that after the exchange we got another open file for the Rook! 10...Na6 11.Nc3 And White is clearly better with the two Rooks positioned on the opened files, active Knights, and an immediate threat of Nd4-Nxc6.

It shouldn't be forgotten that Black doesn't have a solution for activating the Bishop on c8 nor the Rook on a8, this was seen in the game Craciun,G -Nestianu,R ICCF email 2008. 11...f6 12.Nd4 Qe8 13.Nf5 Bc5 14.Ne4 d5 15.Ned6 Bxd6 16.Nxd6 Qe6 17.Nxc8 Qxc8 18.exf6 Rxf6 19.Be3 Re6 20.Qd2 Nc7 21.Bxa7 Ne8 22.Bd4 Nd6 23.Qg5 Rg6 24.Rxa8 Qxa8 25.Qe5 Qc8 26.Ra1 Nf5 27.Ra7 Nxd4 28.Qxd4 h6 29.h3 Qf5 30.Qd3 Qxd3 31.cxd3 Re6 32.Kf1 Kh7 33.h4 Kg6 34.h5+ Kf6 35.g4 g5 36.d4 Re4 37.f3 Rxd4 38.Rh7 Rd3 39.Kf2 Rxb3 40.Rxh6+ Kf7 41.Rxc6 Rxb2+ 42.Ke3 Rb3+ 43.Ke2 Rb2+ 44.Kd1 Rb1+ 45.Kc2 Rf1 46.Rd6 Rf2+ 47.Kd1 Rxf3 48.Rxd5 Kf6 49.Rd6+ Kf7 50.Rg6 Rd3+ 51.Kc2 Rd5 52.Kc3 Rc5+ 53.Kd3 b4 54.Rb6 Rc3+ 55.Kd4 Rg3 56.Ke5 Rxg4 57.Kf5 Rc4 58.Rb7+ Kf8 59.h6 Kg8 60.Kg6 Rc6+ 61.Kxg5 Rc5+ 62.Kg6 Rc6+ 63.Kg5 Rc5+ 64.Kg6 Rc6+ Reference Games-Craciun,G

59 **10.0-0** We are getting close to finishing our full development, while Black is still stuck with only one active piece in the game - the Knight on c5. With a d6-hole and weak exposed pawns on c4 and a4, White has many targets to attack. 10...Nba6 Black's idea is to hunt our light-squared Bishop after Nb4. 11.Qxc4 Rb8 12.Nc3 After putting the Knight on the active square from where it controls the center, we also make pressure on the a4 weakness which is hanging. However, our main idea will be exposing the weak Black King in the center, with a possible Ng5. 12...Nb4 13.Ng5 We ignore Black's attack on the Bishop at the moment, giving a headache to our opponent who faces the mate threat of Qf7. After Black's defense, White is better with a huge initiative, and the main idea is Nce4 followed by Re1, and we keep the pressure on the opponent's miserable pieces tightly positioned on the back rank, which was shown in the game Tedesco, M -Schweikert, E ICCF email 2018. 13...Qe7 14.Bxa4 Ba6 15.Bb5 Bxb5 16.Qxb4 Qxe5 17.Nxb5 Ne6 18.Qc4 Rxb5 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.a4 Bd6 21.Bf4 Qd5 22.Qc3 Rc5 23.Qxg7 Be5 24.Bxe5 Reference Games-Tedesco,M

60 **4...Bb4+** Black's idea is to develop the piece with tempo, escaping quickly trying castle and gain some stability. Also Black intends to force some unwanted exchanges, but this is not what we are going to allow. 5.c3 We are pushing the Bishop back without allowing Black to develop quickly and we go for what we wanted: a sharp and open position with a lot of possibilities and activity! 5...dxc3 6.bxc3 Once again we push the Black Bishop back, but it is worth mentioning that also 6.O-O!? would be very interesting for White with a lot of activity and nice initiative, although the engines wouldn't evaluate that position in White's favor. The position would be very similar to positions coming out from the Danish gambit, which might be a surprise for your opponents! 6...Bc5 Black is putting the Bishop back at the most active square available.

Instead, an immediate 6...d5 would be an interesting and sharp answer, but after 7.exd5 Bd6 White can simply go for 8.O-O O-O followed by 9.Bb3 and the idea of c4-Nd2-Bb2, with an uncertain evaluation but a clear initiative for White. The recently developed Bb2 would be the main piece for the upcoming activities directed to Black's King. Lately, lots of players went for 6...Bc5 against my students, but after 7.e5! White seems to get a promising position!

7.0-0 And within the spirit of the Urusov Gambit, White looks for activity with the better developeded and nicely positioned Bc4 and Nf3, and with the upcoming e5 and Bg5 which would put Black in an inconvenient position. 7...d5 Black is following the common rule in chess 'Attack is the best defense' and reacts in the center aiming to block the light-squared killer Bc4. If Black instead goes for 7...d6 , White would have the interesting 8.Ng5 attacking the f7-weakness and after 8...O-O 9. e5! dxe5 there comes the hidden 10.Bxf7! It seems that black still resists with 10...Kh8 but actually after the exchange 11.Qxd8 Rxd8 12.Bc4! gives the advantage to White, since Nf7 can not be protected. 8.exd5 After the logical answer of exd5, we opened the e-file for the Rook. Although it looks that Black managed to succeed in the plan to block the Bc4, our idea will be based on the further development of Bg5, followed by Bb3-c4 and Bc2 with activation of the light-squared Bishop on the other diagonal eyeing Black's King!

8...0-0 9.Bg5 White aims to finish the development by pinning the Black's Knight with Bg5 and at the same time get better control of d5-pawn. With an open e-file for the Rook and full center control with a space advantage, we go into a pleasant position, where, at the same time, the lack of activity of Bc4 should not be forgotten! 9...Nbd7 Black threatens to play Nb6 with a double attack on the Bc4 and exposed d5 pawn. 10.Re1 Although we are familiar with the threat of Black, we will go for the most active move in the position, activating the Rook on the open file. Instead, it was possible to play 10. Bb3 with c4 and Nbd2 next, but after Rd1, thanks to our active light pieces, it would be hard for Black to gain activity with Nb6. 10...Nb6

11.Bb3 It is very important to save the light-squared Bishop and to understand the importance of this piece. Bb3 is not only a defensive piece that currently protects exposed pawn placed at d5, but it is also a piece with huge attacking potential after c4-Qd3 and Bc2!

11...Qd6 Black activates the Queen and releases the pin aiming to develop the Bishop on c8 and connect the Rooks. However, we will continue with the plan of light-squared Bishop activation, targeting Black's King. You shouldn't worry about 11...Nbxd5?! because out of nowhere your opponent will face 12. Re5! and a pin on the Knight on d5 and Bishop on c5 . After 12... c6 13.c4! with a nice initiative!

12.c4 We reach a position with a nice play after the conclusion of the plan Nc3, Qd3, Bc2, and complete development after Rad1, as it was played in the game between Bauer, R - Zhak, B, ICCF email 2014. 12...Bg4 13.Nc3 Nbd7 14.Qd3 Rae8 15.Nd4 Re5 16.Ndb5 Qe7 17.Qd2 c6 18.Rxe5 Nxe5 19.Nd4 Re8 20.Rc1 h6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Ne4 Nf3+ 23.gxf3 Rxe4 24.fxe4 Bxd4 25.Bd1 Bh3 26.Kh1 Bxf2 27.Rb1 Bb6 28.Qe1 Qf4 29.Rb3 Bd7 30.Rf3 Qe5 31.Rf1 Bc7 32.Qh4 f6 33.Re1 Qb2 34.Rg1 Qd4 35.Bf3 Be5 36.Qe1 Qxc4 37.Qa5 Kh7 38.Qxa7 Qb4 39.a3 Qb2 40.Rg2 Qb3 41.Bg4 Bxg4 Reference Games-Bauer, R

4...d5 Black escapes from the Urusov gambit accepted and decides to answer as actively as possible, with an attempt to create a counter-attack in the center and to develop the pieces quickly. However, an open position gives opportunities to both sides, but keep in mind that White has a small development advantage.

5.exd5 We answer logically by accepting an offer to open the e-file and we are prepared to castle and create some action! The idea is to complete development with O-O and Bg5 and to make some pressure on Black's inactive pieces.

5...Bb4+ Black tries to make the path for castling by checking us and tries for the best hope to exchange some pieces, which would be a relief for our opponent. However, with this move, Black also exposes its Bishop to an attack.

[5...Nxd5 Although this looks like a natural move, it is questionable if Black has time to care about the pawns, while White is actively developing and eyeing the King, which is still positioned in the center. The Urusov Gambit is a race with time, and while White tries to be fast with development and activity, Black needs to hurry to hide the King in the safe spot. After 5...Nxd5? Black is just too late. 6.0-0 It is already clear that Black faces lots of problems. Despite the development advantage, White has a direct threat of Qxd4, Re1, and Ng5, eyeing the weakened and unprotected f7 pawn, while Black doesn't have many options to defend.

A) 6...Nc6 It might look that this is a logical development move, which at the same time gives support to the exposed pawn, but 6...Nc6? is characterized as a bad move since Black is too late with the development of the Kingside. 7.Ng5 Aiming to punish Black's mistake, with a move typical for the Fried Liver Attack, White immediately takes action with this very uncomfortable move. More so, besides the direct threat of Nf7, followed by Qf3 or Qh5, Black also needs to think about possible Re1 and many pins dropping. Ne5 Black tries to defend the weak f7-square with an attack on the light-squared killer, but one should not forget that Black's King is still positioned in the center and the Knight on e5 can be exposed to a pin. *(7...Be6* Although Black tries to protect the weakened f7 square, this is a suspicious move because it allows us to once again pin the

Black's pieces. *8.Re1* Not only that White here threatens the obvious Ne6, but there are also tactical opportunities coming up, such as Nxf7! *Qd7* Once again, Black attempts to escape the lockage with O-O-O and to stabilize. *9.Nxf7* As it was previously mentioned, good development and active pieces allow us to open up the position by sacrificing! It is pretty obvious that Black is forced to accept the sacrifice, but however they choose to continue, it leads to trouble. *Kxf7* This is practically the only possibility for Black, because after 9...Qxf7 there is 10.Bxd5! and once again, Black faces trouble to escape from the pins and to defend the Be6. *10.Qf3+* After a logical check, Black has no options but to play with the King once again, which would not resolve the pin problems. Once again, it is confirmed how much the light-squared Bishop is important for us, and how many problems it makes to our opponent. *Kg8* Of course, 10...Nf6?? would be immediately losing after 11.Bxe6 . While 10...Ke8 would once again pin the Black's King, and White is completely winning after 11.Bxd5 *11.Rxe6* The butchering is ongoing and Black can not escape out of it! *Rd8* If Black tried to accept the Rook sacrifice with 11...Qxe6 the very same Queen would be in a very uncomfortable position after 12.Bxd5 . If instead, Black tries to move the Knight on d5 from the attack with 11...Nb6 that would lead to a discovery by our light-squared killer Bc4 and after 12. Re7 with a check, there will be Qf7 mate coming. *12.Qe4* It is pretty obvious that in the position with equalized material and so many active threats for White, such as Re8 followed by Bd5, Black's terrible King would be compromised to a pin coming from Bc4. However, although we have a direct threat, we shouldn't forget about development, which could be concluded later on with Bg5 and Nd2. White is much better here and this is an easily winning position. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex*; 7...Be7* Black tries to prepare for castling, but there are consequences for the development delay. *8.Nxf7* Active pieces allow us to deliver the final blow with this known sacrifice Nxf7! Black is forced to accept the sacrifice and can forget about castling. *Kxf7 9.Qf3+* After this move, followed by Bxd5, White would have a huge advantage, mainly because of good development, but also because Black would be stuck with the King in the center with no possibilities to castle anymore. After 9...Ke6 10.Re1+ Ne5 11.Bf4 Bf6 and now both 12.Nc3 and 12.Nd2 looks crushing, with ideas of Rxe5+ followed by Re1, getting the last piece into the attack. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex*)* 8.Re1 After this simple Rook activating move, Black has a problem defending the pinned Knight. White should not be in a hurry to return

the material with 8.Qd4, but should keep focusing on activation, since the exposed d4 pawn can not be defended for a while. Ne3 This is practically the only move in which Black tries to escape the pin and make some complications to gain any activity. If 8...f6? was played instead, White would be much better after 9.Nf3 , and both the e5 and d4 squares will be impossible to defend by the Black side. 9.Nxf7 A totally unexpected Knight sacrifice gives lots of problems to Black. This move opens the position up, and with many threats, puts Black into new pins. White does not want to go for 9.fxe3 since it would give Black opportunities to stabilize after 9... Qxg5 . Instead, we continue with the butchering! Nxf7 If 9...Nxd1 was played instead, White would be completely winning after 10. Rxe5 which comes with a check. One should not forget that after 10...Qe7 11.Rxe7 Bxe7 the Rook on h8 is hanging and White enters the position with a clear material advantage after 12.Nxh8 , piece up. 10.fxe3 Now we have entered the position with equal material, but White is much better. Although Black's d4 pawn hangs on, after Rf1 and Qf3, Black would be in a problem to find a proper solution for the King's safety. Be7 11.exd4 Since Black is ready to castle, we simply capture the pawn and play an extremely active position with a pawn up and the previously mentioned idea of Rf1. 0-0 12.Rf1 Crossing the path from sacrifices to material advantage, White reaches a good position with a pawn up, full central control, active pieces such as the Bishop on c4 and Rook on f1, while Black is still chained due to the pin of the King and the Knight. The idea for White will be to stabilize the centralized pawn with c3, and a simple continuation of development and attacking actions with Qf3 or Qh5, Nd2, Ne4. Getting closer to the end of development would lead also to the end of the game, with a score of 1:0. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex;

B) 6...Nb6 Black tries to remove the light-squared killer, but he can not be happy with all of the pieces placed on the back rank and with the King in the center, while we are fully developed and ready for the real action! If, instead, Black tried to escape into and tries to castle the King with 6...Be7 it would be too late. After 7.Qxd4 White attacks both g7-square and the Knight on d5 and the only defense is 7...Nf6 after which we can enter an endgame with 8.Qxd8 Bxd8 and take an advantage thanks to the more active pieces with 9.Re1 Be7 10.Nc3 and White is clearly better with ideas of Nb5, Ng5, Bf4, Rad1 which will be unbearable for the Black side. One shall not forget that Black's King is locked to the e8-square and can not castle due to a pin by Re1. All the advantages of White's position may be seen through the game Perunovic Mio-Khatanbaatar, Chess.com, January 2021. 7.Bg5 This is a very

important intermediary move. With such an advantage and huge initiative, it is not the time to step back, White is going forward to weaken Black's poor pieces! f6 This is practically the only move for Black, because after 7...Be7?! Black would be facing 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Re1! and that would lead to losing the Queen. 8.Re1+ Besides the fact that 8.Re1 is a great developing move, it puts some pressure on Black's centralized King. One should not forget that Black cannot castle the King anymore since the Bc4 controls g8-square. Be7 9.Bb3 Light-squared Bishop needs to stay on a2-g8 diagonal! This is a quiet move that will give a lot of headaches to the Black players who must be thinking how to proceed now, and it is not easy to find an answer to that question. Nc6 If Black steps on the mine and accept to take the hanging Bishop with 9...fxg5? after 10.Nxg5 and the idea of Qh5 it would be impossible to defend everything. With a piece down and mate threats, White is winning. 10.Bf4 After another quiet move, it becomes obvious that Black is locked down, and that White is extremely active with almost all pieces developed. After Nh4, White will threaten to win with Qh5 immediately, but if Black manages to stop that idea, White can keep a normal play with Qd3, Na3, Rad1. Eventually, a pawn from d4 will fall down, but White will keep the activity of the pieces, while Black will still be searching for a way to the castle. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3... ex]

6.c3 Of course, we do not follow Black's hopes to offer any pieces for exchanges. We block the check with a pawn, attacking the Bb4 at the same time, but one should not forget that we also open the Queen threatening Qa4+. 6...Qe7+ This is the only move for Black which does not go straight into a losing position. I am sure that you will be facing 6...dxc3 very often, and with a lot of pleasure, you will win a piece in the 7th move after 7. Qa4+! 7.Be2 Basically, we are forced to step back with a Bishop, since 7.Qe2 instead is out of the question because we do not want to trade pieces. However, this move should not be taken as a retraining move, because it also improves the Bishop's position since at c4 it lost a role of the attacking piece eyeing our own d5 pawn. 7...dxc3 Black had no many options except to take this pawn, since White had a serious threat of Qxd4. 8.Nxc3 Once again, we use the opportunity to develop our pieces at the most active possible squares. Since Black keeps up with development as well, we begin to improve the position by choosing the positional approach, and for the moment, we put the aggressive style aside. 8...0-0 9.0-0 Nbd7 Black's idea is to play Nb6 and attack our isolated pawn. Someone might think it was more logical for Black to first develop the Bc8, but on a deeper

look, Black has no good option to settle the Bishop down. If 9...Bg4 was played instead, White would be able to answer with 10.h3 , followed by Bf4, which would impede Black's development with Nbd7, due to the c7-weakness. 10.Bg5 This is a very uncomfortable move for the Black side since now Black needs to think about the pin and White's threats. However, White could also continue more peacefully with 10.Re1 , which gives a slight advantage and a nice position for play. 10...Bxc3 If Black is in a hurry to remove the Bishop, we can easily overtake the advantage.

[10...Nb6 Black is ready to remove the Bishop and after Bc3 to surround and capture the pawn with Nd5. 11.Rc1 Although Black has a threat to take the material advantage, White shouldn't be blindfolded on the other aspects of the position. If Black intends to take the pawn, he needs to give up the Bishop pair, which is more than enough compensation for the material loss. Instead of Rc1, the alternative was 11.Re1 , X-raying Black's Queen on e7 , but after 11... Qd6 12.Nb5 Qd8 White is forced to go back with 13.Nc3 and be satisfied with equal position. Bxc3 12.bxc3 This is a very important move for White, although someone might think that it is more natural to take the pawn with the Rook and gain an open file. One should not forget that in that case, Black would be able to take Nbd5 with tempo, and would have time to conclude the development and establish full control of the center before White takes proper action. Nbxd5 13.c4 With this move, not only that we force Black to step back from the center, but we open the space for our pieces and the Bishop pair which is our main weapon here. At the same time, we overtake the control in the center. Nb4 Black's best try to keep the pieces active. For example, if 13...Nb6?! was played instead, the aggressive 14.c5! would be possible with the idea of Re1, Qb3, slowly starting to cut the space for Black's pieces. 14.Qb3 After 14.Qb3 White is about to finish development and aims to play Re1 and establish the lines of communication. The position is not clear, as Black has a material advantage, but White on the other hand with the Bishop pair, which is an especially good weapon in open positions, such as this one. With lots of opportunities to create complications, and the initiative on the White side, these positions are very interesting to be played. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

11.bxc3 After this move, we are able to establish the center control with c4, and to start playing for a win with the long-term Bishop pair advantage! 11...Qc5 12.c4 Black is searching for any possible activity, but White has no troubles here. Oppositely, after reaching an outpost with Nd4, we would have active and developed pieces, while Black needs to think about how to develop Bc8 since if they decide to move the Knight from d7, they would face Bf6 and ann extremely bad pawn structure around the

King. 12...b6 This is practically the only way for Black to conclude the development, but this move creates new outposts. 13.Nd4 After White reached a desirable outpost with Nd4, Black must be thinking about Nc6 or Nf5 possibilities. 13...Ne4 Black is desperately trying to overtake the Bishops pair, but White is already too active, and now can turn to the other advantages. 14.Be3 Instead of being stubborn and keeping Bishops pair, we are taking another opportunity to gain the initiative and attack Black's exposed Queen by pinning it! Of course, the main threat now is 15.Ne6 winning an exchange! 14...Nc3 15.Qc2 Nxe2+ 16.Qxe2 As it was previously mentioned, White's threat is Ne6, discovery-attack thanks to the pin which leads to a material advantage, so Black is forced to once again step back and put development aside. 16...Qe7 17.Nc6 We have reached the newest outpost à tempo thanks to the hunt on Black's exposed Queen! While White improves his pieces, Black tries to escape the attack. 17...Qd6 18.Bd4 With this move, White has reached a perfect and the longest possible diagonal for the Bishop which is now eyeing the Black's lone King. 18...Bb7 19.Ne7+ Reference Games-Laes,C And finally, when Black tried to unchain and activate the pieces, White used the opportunity to cash out on our own activity, winning material advantage after an upcoming Nf5 when the g7-pawn would be undefended, as it was shown in the game Laes, C-Flores Gutierrez, C ICCF corr 1975.

[61] **5...d5** I have faced this tricky move a few times during Online play. Black's idea is to give up the pawn aiming to open up some space for the pieces. However, 5...d5?! is considered suspicious if White answers correctly. 6.Bxd5 We do not want to go into an endgame with 6.Qxd5, but we will accept Black's generous offer to take a pawn back. With 6.Bxd5! Black's Knight placed on e4 is under attack and he needs to step back, while we will continue with active development. 6...Nf6 7.Nc3 White keeps up with development and active play! It is very important to be wise and not to go for a tricky line with 7.Bxf7?! which is suspicious due to 7...Kxf7 8.Qxd8 Bb4 9.Qd2 and after 9...Re8! leads to an uncomfortable position for White and initiative with full compensation for Black. 7...Nxd5 This is practically the only possible continuation for Black. If he tries to go for 7...Be7 instead, aiming to castle as soon as possible, White is clearly better after 8.Bg5 followed by 9.O-O-O and huge initiative. 8.Nxd5 Once again, Black faces development problems. Due to the g7-weakness, Black is not able to develop with 8...Be6, and he needs to think about the direct threat of 9. Qe5! 8...Be6 Threatening exposed Knight on d5 , Black develops and aims to force the Queen's exchange. Going into an endgame would give Black a solid play and relief. One

shall not forget that 8...c6? instead is met with 9.Qe5! with a double attack to Black's King and the c7-weakness. 9.c4 White supports the Knight on d5 and at the same time takes center control. Threatening 10.Bg5 Black once again faces trouble due to badly positioned pieces. 9...Nc6 With this move, Black at the same time develops and wants to kick out White's Queen from a1-h8 diagonal from where it attacks g7-square and does not allow Black to develop Bishop from f8 . Anyway, White's pieces are very active and this is not going to stop White's activity. If Black tries with 9...c6?! after previously mentioned 10.Bg5! he is forced to play 10...Qd7 and White takes full control of position after 11.O-O-O with a clear advantage and direct threat of 11...-- 12.Nc7 Qxc7 13.Qd8! Qxd8 14. Rxd8# 10.Qe4 Forced to swing from the a1-h8 diagonal, the Queen swings to an open e-file pinning Black's King exposed in the center. White has a simple plan of 11.Bg5 followed by O-O-O gaining a position with all pieces activated while Black still handles development issues. 10...Qd7 Black escapes from the upcoming attack of 11.Bg5 and prepares for the castle. However, White has another target to attack now, c7 is weakened! 11.Bf4 After another developing tempo move, White is ready to go for the 12.O-O-O which would put Black's Queen into huge trouble. White will finish his development with the forthcoming 13.Rhe1 and all the pieces will actively control the center. Engines evaluate the position as a little better for White, but I would say that in practice, White has easy play, clear plans, easy development, and on top of all that space advantage! 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3... ex

5...Qe7 This is a very suspicious move, although my students faced it a lot in Online games against lower-rated opponents. I suppose that Black thinks that it is quite logical to pin our King and continue afterward with Nc6, developing with a tempo, but what actually happens is that Black is lagging too much with Kingside development and safety. 6.0-0 White escapes the pin, trying to castle, and threatens Re1 which would put Black in a lot of trouble and difficulties to defend the exposed Ne4. 6...Nc6 Black uses the opportunity to develop with an idea to move our Queen back from the center. 7.Qd1 This is a quiet move, but at the same time very cunning! White escapes all the possible attacks by putting the Queen back to a starting position, and threatens silent Re1 followed by Ng5! 7...Nc5 Black is trying to establish the position and cover the pin with Ne6, but the Queen is already exposed! 8.Bg5 A simple developing move yet very strong with a tempo that forces Black to push pawns around the King, since the Queen has no space to escape. Naturally, I see nothing wrong with 8.Re1 Ne6 9.

Nc3 -Nd5 with relatively easy middlegame and lots of problems for Black to complete his development. 8...f6 The only way to defend the Queen for Black, although 8...Qd6 looks possible, after 9.Qe2! it is clear that Black didn't resolve the issues with the Queen's position which will be seized sooner or later. 9.Bh4 With a small step back we keep activity and the very same plan of development with Nc3, Re1, and possible Nd5. At the same time, Black has no chance to strike back. 9...Ne6 10.Nc3 Although Black has a material advantage, White is clearly better thanks to better development, opened center, and miserable Black's pieces positioned on the back rank. Black is locked down and it is hard to imagine how he could unchain. With simple ideas of Re1, Bg3 - eyeing the c7 weakness and Nd5, White gains huge initiative and enters a very enjoyable position. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex

[62] **7...h6** 8.Qh4 d5 9.0-0-0 c6 10.Rhe1 Transposes to 6...Be7 7. Bg5 c6 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex

[63] **9.Qh4** 0-0 10.Rhe1 Be6 11.Bd3 White again forces Black to push the pawns around the King due to a threat of 11...-- 12.Bxh7! Do not forget that after Black's 12...Nxh7 there comes 13.Bxe7! 11...h6 This is the move which you will most possibly face a lot, although it is considered as a bad move which leads Black straightly to a losing position after the harsh attack on the Kingside! It is worth mentioning that Black can try to defend with 11...g6 but that would create weaknesses on the dark-squares around the King, and after 12.Nd4! +- Black is in trouble with the Bishop on e6, while White prepares for Re7, followed by Bf6! 12.Bxh6 With a well-known motive of the Bh6 sacrifice, White opens the Kingside and activates Bishop on d3 which puts pressure on the h7 square. When in doubt, sacrifice on h6! You may hardly regret... 12...Ne4 Black hunts the White's Queen which looks to have problems with available squares. However, if 12...gxh6 was played instead, White is much better after 13.Qxh6 due to threats of 13...-- 14.Re5 , followed by Rg5, or even easier 14.Ng5 , followed by Bh7. Black tries to rob our Queen, but you should not worry about it. After the upcoming 13.Qh5 Black has no good defense move. However if 12...gxh6 was played instead, White is much better after 13.Qxh6 with the idea of Ng5 and Re3, moving the pieces onto open files around the Black's naked King. 13.Qh5 While White's Queen is safe, Black has a problem with a Knight on e4. Don't forget that if Black goes for 13...Nxc3? you do not care about the pieces, but you go for a mate with 14.Bxg7! followed by 14...-- 15.Qh7# Also, it is obvious that if Black continues a hunt on the Queen with 13...g6 , White can simply play 14.Qe5 and after 14...Bf6 , the Queen is safe

with 15.Qf4 when White has huge initiative and open lines for an attack. 13...g6 Black can also try to trap White's Queen after 13...Nf6 but White escapes with 14.Qg5 and after 14...Ne8 15.Qg3 gives a nice advantage to White in a position with equalized material but developed Kingside attack. Of course, 13...gxh6? is hopeless due to 14.Bxe4 which can not be taken due to the pin on the Queen on d8 . White would have full control of the light squares, and an undefendable attack. 14.Qe5 With this maneuver, White finds an appropriate spot for the Queen and has full control of dark squares around the Black King. One should not forget that Black's Knight on e4 is in trouble. 14...Bf6 15.Qf4 The forthcoming plan of White can be seen in a game between Luebke, K - McMahon, P IECG email 1996, when Black went for 15...Nxc3 and faced 16.Rxe6! fxe6 17.Qg4 with an attack on two weaknesses e6 and g6 . Although Black has a whole Rook up, due to inactivity, White is clearly better with unstoppable mate attack! 15...Nxc3 16.Rxe6 fxe6 17.Qg4 Rf7 18.Qxg6+ Bg7 19.Bxg7 Rxg7 20.Qxe6+ Kh8 21.Qh6+ Kg8 22.Bf5 Nxd1 23.Be6+ Kf8 24.Qh8+ Ke7 25.Qxg7+ Kd6 26.Qe5+ Kc5 27.Kxd1 Kb6 28.Qd4+ Kc7 29.Qf4+ Qd6 30.Qxd6+ Kxd6 31.Bf5 Nd7 32.g4 Ne5 33.Ng5 Ke7 34.b3 Rf8 35.h4 Rxf5 36.gxf5 Kf6 37.f4 Ng4 38.Ke2 Nh6 39.h5 Nxf5 40.Kd3 Nh4 41.h6 Ng6 42.Ke3 c5 43.c4 d4+ 44.Kf3 b6 45.Ne4+ Kf7 46.f5 Nf8 47.Ng5+ Kg8 48.f6 Ng6 49.Ke4 Nh8 50.h7+ Kf8 51.b4 a5 52.bxc5 bxc5 53.a4 Ng6 54.Ne6+ Kf7 55.Kf5 Reference Games-Luebke,K

64 **9...0-0** This move looks logical as Black puts the King in a safe zone and at the same time gives support to the Queen on d8, threatening dxc4. However, this is a suspicious move due to the placement of White's pieces eyeing the King right away! This move can look like a logical answer by Black, who puts the King in a safe zone and at the same time gives support to Qd8, threatening dc4. However, 9...O-O?! is considered suspicious due to the relocation of White's pieces eyeing the King right away! 10.Bd3 White improves the position of the light-squared Bishop putting the pressure on vulnerable h7 spot after a simple Qh4. It is extremely important to emphasize that 10. Qh4?! leads to unclear position without much chances for attack due to 10...Bf5! which guards Kingside. With this move, White also blocks this option for Black and keeps things under control. All of this up to this move was already covered in the theoretical section of the book. White improves the position of the light-squared Bishop with a simple idea of Qh4 which would put pressure on h7-weakened square. It is extremely important to emphasize that 10. Qh4?! leads to unclear position without much chances for attack anymore due to 10...Bf5! which guards King's position very convincingly and the rest of the

game would be hard for White to claim the compensation! 10...a5 Black does not recognize the danger of the attack on the Kingside. He needs to go instead for alternatives as 10...Re8 or 10...h6 . It is clear that Black hopes to create a Queenside attack but there is no time for that as it will be shown in this game.

[10...h6 Black wants to resolve the problems of the h7 weakness by kicking out the Bishop from g5, but we ain't gonna go back there! 11.Bxh6 I am sure that by now you got familiar with this sacrifice which puts Black into an uncomfortable position and defending issues. Black is forced to accept the sacrifice which makes the King naked! gxh6 12.Qe3 To avoid any complications I recommend 12.Qe3 move here instead of already seen 12.Qh4 . With a double attack on the Bishop on e7 and a pawn h6 , Black has no time for the defense of the Kingside. Re8 The only way for Black to defend the Bishop and leave some space for optional Bf8 defense of the King. 13.Qxh6 White shows dominance aiming to play Ng5, followed by Bh7, or the idea of Re3-Rg3. With the late development of the Queenside, Black is not in a position to defend properly, and soon he will need to shake the hands and sign the result of 1:0. Nbd7 One should not forget that after 13.Qxh6 move the idea of 13...Bf8? is stopped due to 14.Rxe8 which puts Black in a position to choose between two losing positions: 14...Qxe8 15.Qxf6 , or 14...Nxe8 15.Qh7#! 14.Ng5 Faced with a direct threat of Bh7! Black is forced to passively defend with only moves, whilst White is ready for action with Re3, followed by Rg3. Nf8 15.Re3 And White is winning since Black can not escape from Rg3 and the upcoming mate threat of Ne6 or mating combinations on h7 once one of the Knights either on f6 or f8 move. It is quite interesting to point out that throughout the whole line, the engine was claiming that the position is equal, and after we reached the final position, it says close to winning for White! 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

[10...Nbd7 Black tries to reach stable position with a pawn up, but it is obvious that White is able to create an attack on the Kingside. 11.Qh4 Thanks to nicely positioned Rook on e1, White controls e-file and threatens to take Bh7! Black is forced to push the pawns around the King to stop this threat, but that would make new weaknesses on the already weakened Kingside. h6 Black puts the last hopes that he can be able to remove the Bishop from g5 which gives him a headache. However, with all pieces activated on the Whiteside, we are ready for some tactics! I would like to refresh your memory that 11...Nc5? is not possible for Black due to 12.Bxh7! while 11...g6 would make huge outposts on the black squares and after 12.Re2! with the idea of Rde1 Black would have issues to defend all. 12.Bxh6 White opens the things around Black's solitary King! gxh6 13.Qxh6 With the simple idea of Ng5 followed by Re3-Rg3 White gains a clearly better position with a light-

squared Bishop killer positioned on d3 and difficulties for Black to swing to a defense on the Kingside. I believe one should practice attacking possibilities by White in similar positions CC StartBracket CC when White sacrifices on h6CC EndBracket CC, because there are certain rules about conducting the attack on the Kingside, and similar type of positions and sacrifices will be very common guests in the Urusov Gambit positions! 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

11.Qh4 White quickly toggles the Queen to the Kingside eyeing the h7 pawn. Black needs to turn to defense mode now. 11...h6 12.Bxh6 A well-known and desirable idea of the Urusov gambit finally comes true! Black falls into a position with a naked King! 12...Ne4 If Black accepts the sacrifice instead 12...gxh6 13.Qxh6 leads to winning position as after 13...Qd6 14.Ng5 comes with threats of Re7 or Bh7. There is no defense anymore! For this reason, Black needed to search for alternatives, but anyway, White has a clear advantage now. 13.Qh5 It is obvious that everything hangs in Black's position and I would not like to be in their shoes at this point. 13...g6 Black follows the only line that makes the game last longer, but not nicer to play. Dark squares are weakened now and White will take full control over them. The main square to fight for now is g7! 14.Qe5 Bf6 Again Black needs to follow the only moves to keep the King safe. 15.Qf4 White simply steps back and now threatens the Knight on e4. Both Ne4 and Be4 are deadly threats for Black that he needs to address. It is clear that Black needs to go for trades at this point, leaving the Rook on f8 attacked. 15...Nxc3 16.Bxf8 Nxd1 It might look that Black keeps the material after this continuation but the truth is that White holds the control over the dark squares. 17.Bh6 Bxb2+ 18.Kxd1 After all the trades Black kept the pawn up, but one shall notice that most of the Black's pieces are still positioned on the starting position. With poor development, Black will not be in a position to defend. 18...Nd7 19.Ng5 White is ready for decisive action! The f7 pawn is attacked, and the h4-h5 comes soon! 19...Bf6 20.h4 It is very hard to find a good response for Black. White threatens to open the King after h5, but also to include the Rook in the attack with a Rook lift of Re3-Rg3. Black's pieces are too inactive for any kind of counterplay or proper defense. 20...Nf8 21.h5 White finally advances with h5 and Black cannot prevent the opening of the King now! 21...Bd7 22.Re5 Beautiful move which leaves Black speechless! The idea is to defend the Knight on g5 , threatening 23.Bxf8 Qxf8 24.Qxf6 with a clear piece-up advantage. If Black continues with 22...Ne6 here the game will be finished in joy after 23.Nxe6 Bxe6 24.Re3 with Rg3 coming afterward and the King will be in the mating net. Model Games-Allerberger,P

10.Qh4 Keeping all pieces active,

without retreating, White continues to put pressure on Black. After Black finally threatens the light-squared Bishop we will be ready to put it on the more active square - d3. One shall not forget that the Bd3 will control the h7 spot and it will be very hard for Black to keep the King in safety. The position transposes into 6...Be7 7.Bg5 c6 8. O-O-O d5 9.Rhe1 Be6 10.Qh4. White is swinging the Queen over to the kingside and keeps the Black's Queen pinned by the Rd1. Despite that, d4 square is now available to a Knight which will put Be6 into trouble, while Bc4 remains untouchable! 10...Nbd7 Black finally threatens the Bishop on c4, but that fits with White's plan. As previously mentioned, the light-squared Bishop finds a more attractive square to go. 10...Nbd7 is the most natural follow-up for Black who develops the last minor piece and breaks the Queen's pin at last.

[10...h6 White should realize that Black's idea of this move is not to move the Bishop from g5 away, since hg5 is not a threat due to a pinned Rook, but Black aims to play Nfd7!? followed by exchanges. 11.Bd3 White prepares the pieces for when Black's King journeys on to the Kingside, which would be the most logical 'human move', aiming to create an attack on the Kingside. This move is mainly there to prevent castles, due to the now already obvious threat of the Bxh6 break! Nfd7 Even though it does not look natural, this is the most dangerous move for White in this position. Black threatens to go for 12.-- 12...Bxg5 13.Nxg5 Qxg5 . *(11...Kd7* This is a very interesting move by Black which I saw in a game between Tedesco,M - Popov, V ICCF email 2017. Mainly, Black tries to escape with the King to the seemingly safe Queenside, and at the same time, connects the pieces while threatening hxg5. *12.Bd2* It is clear that White has full compensation for the pawn, but still we need to take care and remain accurate in order to redeem the best out of the position: in short, we need to be precise. With 12.Bd2 White puts the dark-squared Bishop in safer place, and keeps the intensity in the position by threatening to swing the Queen back to the Queenside where the action has moved. *g5* This move was played in a game, although it's not the best choice for Black. Instead, 12...Bd6 could be uncomfortable for White, but after 13. Qa4 White has the initiative for the pawn, while Black needs to think about how to improve the King on d7 . Also, if Black chose to play 12...Ne4 , after a very important intermediary check 13.Ne5 Kc7 , White gains initiative with 14.Qh5 eyeing the f7 weakness. *13.Qd4* White puts the Queen onto the most active square, putting the ball in Black's field, forcing him to think about the pin and the development of the Queenside. *Kc8 14.h4* White follows the well-known rule to open the position when the opponent's King is placed in the center. Black needs to think about the g5-weakness, how to keep the Black-squares defended, and how to improve the position of the King on c8 as well as the undeveloped pieces

Nb8 and Ra8. *c5 15.Qa4* With active pieces, full control of the semi-opened e-file and pressure on g5-spot, White has full compensation for the pawn. After the forthcoming Ne5, Black will face troubles developing the Knight from b8. *c4 16.hxg5 hxg5 17.Bxc4 dxc4 18.Bxg5 Qg8 19.Nb5 Nc6 20.Nd6+ Bxd6 21.Rxd6 Nd5 22.Qxc4 Nc7 23.Qf4 Nb5 24.Rd3 Qg6 25.Bf6 Rg8 26.Ng5 Nc7 27.Ne4 Ne8 28.Rg3 Qh7 29.Rc3 Qf5 30.Qd2 Qd5 31.Rd3 Nxf6 32.Rxd5 Nxd5 33.g4 Rxg4 34.c4 Nc7 35.Nd6+ Kb8 36.f4 a6 37.Qe3 Rg8 38.f5 Bd7 39.Rd1 f6 40.Qb6 Ra7 41.Qf2 Ne5 42.Ne4 Bc8 43.Nxf6 Rf8 44.Qh4 b5 45.Qh6 Rf7 46.Ne4 Ne8 47.Rd8 Rfe7 48.Qf8 Nd3+ 49.Kd2 Rxe4 50.Kxd3 Rae7 51.f6 bxc4+ 52.Kc3 Re3+ 53.Kb4 R7e4 54.f7 c3+ 55.Kb3 cxb2+ 56.Kxb2 Re2+ 57.Kc3 R2e3+ 58.Kc2 Re2+ 59.Rd2* Reference Games-Tedesco,M*)* 12.Bxe7 White is forced to remove the dark-squared Bishops and hopes to make use of the semi-opened e-file and possible pins by the Rook on e1. Qxe7 13.Qg3 I would like to mention that the engines suggest 13.Qxe7 for White as the best computer move, and after 13...Kxe7 14.Nd4 gives initiative to White. However, I think that the best way to gain an active position for White is to continue with an attack with Queens on the board and therefore the natural 13.Qg3 move which puts pressure on the g7-weakened square. 0-0 Black castles immediately where the King is seemingly safe due to the lack of the dark-squared Bishop in White's position. Anyway, there is still the active Rook on e1 and the uncomfortably positioned Bishop on e6 which is exposed to several pins. 14.Ne2 White aims to relocate the pieces on the Kingside with the idea of Nf4 or Nd4. It is clear that Black has no time to escape the pin, so he must search for another way of activation. Nc5 At the same time, Black supports the Bishop on e6 and threatens to remove our Bishop from d3. However, this exchange would lead to a possible activation of White's Rooks, so White does not need to defend here. 15.Nf4 Not only that White finally puts pressure on Be6, but also has a hidden threat of Nh5, compromising Black's Kingside. Not only that White finally puts pressure on Be6, but also has a hidden threat of Nh5, compromising Black's Kingside. You can find the full and detailed analysis of this line here! Nxd3+ 16.Rxd3 White aims to go for Nh5 and to double the Rooks afterward with the full control of the e-file and e6 square. Nd7 Black grabs the last ticket for active play and development aiming to play Rae8 and to give support to the e6 square. 17.Nh5 With this move White forces Black to push the pawns around the King and to make new targets for an attack. At the same time, Black has no time to develop due to an immediate Qg7 mate threat. g6 18.Nf4 Although engines do not cheer for White's position, I am sure that in practice the position promises very nice play for White. It is not clear how Black can strike back and free up the position from the pins. With White's

upcoming idea of Rde3 and weakened squares to prey on - e6 and g6, White has a nice compensation and the possibility to continue with h4, as it was shown in the game between Filipchenko, V - Volodarsky, Y ICCF email 2015. Qf6 19.Rde3 Nc5 20.Nh5 Qe7 21.Nf4 Qf6 22.Nh5 Reference Games-Filipchenko,V]

[10...Qa5 This is a suspicious move by Black, which looks like a relief due to the threat of dxc5. However, the relief is only for a short period of time, due to the lack of development by Black and the nice tactical possibilities for White. 11.Nd4 Black gets punished for lagging up on the development! Without options to move the Bishop from e6 away, due to the threat of Bxf6 and the discovery of another pin on Be7, Black needs to accept the sacrifice. dxc4 As previously said, Black is forced to accept the sacrifice and to give up the light-squares and the control of d and e-files to White. If 11...Nbd7 was played instead, White is simply winning after 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Rxe6 dxc4 and the final blow 14.Rde1 when Black has no options to defend the pinned Bishop on e7. White would conquer the 7th rank and after the forthcoming 14...-- 15.Qxc4 would end up with a material advantage. 12.Bxf6 This is a very important move that opens up the e-file and puts Black's King in an exposed position to checks and even mating nets! Bxf6 Practically 12...Bxf6 is the only option for Black, since 12...gxf6 would be met with 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Rxe6 and Black cannot prevent White's threat of 14...-- 15.Rde1 nor can support the pinned Bishop on e7. 13.Nxe6 And you finally can meet with the glory of the Urusov Gambit and all the beauties it is offering! With full control of the open files, White sacrifices the Queen and butchers the opponent with a whooping 15 moves! Bxh4 14.Nc7+ Kf8 15.Re8# Black was simply forced to accept the Queen's sacrifice and forcefully dragged over to the mate on the 15th move. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

11.Bd3 White keeps all the pieces active and Black has issues to castle Kingside. He would be very brave to castle at this point of play when all the White's pieces are eyeing the h7 spot. White retreats the Bishop back onto the most active square and aims to stop Black from going with 11...O-O?? due to 12.Bxh7!

11...Nc5 While Black tries to find a solution for a problem with castling and the vulnerable h7 pawn, White will point new weaknesses in Black's position as it will be shown soon.

[11...h6 This is a natural developing move by Black, but now the Bishop on e6 becomes the target! 12.Rxe6 With this very interesting move, White opens up the space around Black's King which is still positioned in the center, and creates a path for the light-squared Bishop on d3. Black is forced to accept the sacrifice and hand over the control of the light-squares to White. However, if you don't wish to always go for the sharpest lines, you can go with the other option with 12.Nd4 where White is in good shape after 12...Nc5

and 13.Bf5 , with full control over the semi-opened e-file and a nice initiative. fxe6 13.Bg6+ Not only that White gains control of the light squares, after 13.Bg6+ Black can forget about castling and the activation of Rh8 which becomes locked up in the corner. Of course, White also has a new target to attack, the weakness on e6. Kf8 14.Qh3 Transposes to the line 6...Be7 7.Bg5 c6 8.O-O-O d5 9.Rhe1 Be6 10.Qh4 h6 11.Bd3 Nbd7?! 12.Rxe6! which was previously explained. Whilst White puts the pressure on the e6 weakness, Black is cramped on the back rank, with difficulties activating any of the Rooks. Black can only play with the light-squared pieces, while we prepare for Re1 and Nd4. Bd6 Black tries to create space for the Queen, which would give support to the e6-pawn. Anyway, White's pieces are already active and Black can not avoid the upcoming attacks and pins. 15.Re1 With a direct threat of Nd4, White puts Black into an uncomfortable position without any hope soon that Black will be able to free up the position. White has a clear plan of moving the dark-squared Bishop into safety after 16.Bd2, with a plan to go for Nh4-Nf5 after Black's most likely reply 15...e5. This is exactly what happened in the game between Filipchenko, V - Da Riva Alonso, J ICCF email 2014. e5 16.Bd2 Qe7 17.Nh4 Kg8 18.Nf5 Qf8 19.Ne2 Nc5 20.Neg3 a5 21.Nxd6 Qxd6 22.Nf5 Qc7 23.Qa3 b6 24.b4 Ncd7 25.bxa5 c5 26.Qg3 b5 27.Bc3 d4 28.Bd2 Nd5 29.f4 e4 30.Rxe4 N7f6 31.Re6 b4 32.a6 h5 33.Qf3 Kf8 34.Qe2 h4 35.Qc4 Rc8 36.Nd6 Rd8 37.Nb7 Rc8 38.Nxc5 Qd8 39.Re5 h3 40.g3 b3 41.axb3 Kg8 42.Bf5 Rh6 43.Bxc8 Qxc8 44.f5 Kh7 45.Bxh6 Reference Games-Filipchenko,V]

[11...c5 Even though it looks like Black gained full central control, 11...c5? is a bad move because White gains a chance to blow everything up whilst Black's King is still positioned in the center. 12.Bxf6 Maybe this move does not look logical, since White is giving away the Bishop pair, White actually aims to open up space for Ng5 which would put undefendable pressure on the Bishop on e6. Bxf6 If Black decides to go instead for 12...Nxf6 White would be completely winning after 13.Ng5 and Black can not defend the e6 spot, whilst 12...gxf6 would be met with 13.Qh5 with an obvious threat of 13...-- 14.Nxd5 . 13.Qh5 After this quiet-looking move, White threatens to play Re6, Nd5, or Qd5 and Black can not defend them all! g6 14.Qxd5 Not only that White equalized the material, but White reached a clearly better position thanks to all of the activity and centralized pieces. Black is practically forbidden from castling since he would face 14...O-O 15.Rxe6! and after 15...fxe6 16.Qxe6 Kh8 White is completely winning after 17.Bb5 , followed by 17...-- 18.Rxd7 and White will have two pieces and a pawn for a Rook, which is considered to be a hugely practical and material advantage. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

[11...Qa5 I have seen a lot of games

where Black attempts to play on the Queenside with the O-O-O. But one should not forget that Black's Bishop on e6 does not have any support anymore and it is exposed to attacks. 12.Nd4 Due to the lack of the squares for an escape with the Bishop, Black is forced to give the pawn back to White and to enter this terrible position with equal material, and lots of activity for White 0-0-0 Of course, 12...Nc5 instead would allow 13.Bf5! and once again Black can not protect the Bishop on e6 . If he chooses to continue with 13...Bxf5 14.Nxf5 there is no salvation for the poor Bishop on e7! 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Rxe6 With full control of the e-file White can go for a smooth plan with Kb1 as a prophylactic move that defends the a2 point, followed by Rde1. Bb4 The most resilient move for Black who threatens to ruin our pawn structure around the King. Have in mind that 14...Rhe8 can be answered with the previously mentioned plan, 15.Kb1 , followed by 15...-- 16.Rde1 and White is much better due to the active pieces and issues for Black to open up some space for any type of action. 15.Ne2 With the idea of Nd4 or Nf4, White takes control of the play. One should not forget that a2 is not really hanging since Bb4 would be undefended, 15...Qxa2?? 16.Qxb4! Rhe8 Black keeps the fight for e-file and has the support by Bishop on b4, since White is not able anymore to go for Rde1. Anyway, Black can not benefit a lot from it, as you will see later. If 15...h6 was played instead, after 16. Bxf6 gxf6 White puts the King in a safe zone, defending the a2-square with 17.Kb1 and has a slight advantage due to our space control, active Rook on e6 , and a majority with 3 pawns against 2 on the Kingside, which leaves White with the option of creating a passed pawn later on. 16.Rxe8 Rxe8 17.Kb1 I am sure that you are already familiar with this prophylactic move, which keeps White's King in a safe zone, and at the same time, gives support to the attacked a2-pawn. White is slightly better with more chances to play for a win thanks to the possibility of creating a passed pawn on the Kingside as it was previously mentioned. One should not forget that White has a Bishop pair here, which is considered to be an advantage in semi-opened positions such as this one. It is very important to notice that h7 weakness is not really hanging due to Rxe2, so we should not hurry to take it, but White should focus on the idea of Nd4, possibly followed by Nf5 which would provoke weaknesses on Black's Kingside. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

12.Nd4 Of course that White is not afraid of a possible Nxd3 as that would bring another Rook in action after Rxd3. Black must feel uncomfortable facing the threat of Bf5 now! I need to emphasize that here White's threat is not to remove the light-squared Bishop on e6 but to play 12...-- 13.Bf5! and to further add on the attack on Be6. That would force Black to open the e-file for the Rook on e1 , and Black's Be7 would be in an

uncomfortable pin. 12...h6 I would say that this is a suspicious move that does not change White's plans. Black threatens nothing as the Rook on h8 hangs after the capture of the Bishop on g5. It is obvious that Black does not threaten to take the Bishop with gxh5 , because the Rook on h8 would be hanging, but aims to play 13...Nfd7! with an idea to force the trades. Also, it is important to understand the position and know that Black will not go for the castle on the Kingside, because of the previously mentioned threats of Bxh6! but also, it is not easy for Black to try to escape with the King by castling long. For example, 12...Qd7?! would be met with 13. f4! and Black can not defend the threat of 13...-- 14.f5!

[12...Nxd3+ It is a fact that with this move Black removed our light-squared killer, which was nicely eyeing the Kingside, but at the same time, Black allowed us to activate another Rook from d-file, and to improve an attack on Be6. 13.Rxd3 0-0 After he removed our light-squared Bishop, Black is self-confident that there is no more attack on the Kingside. We will prove that he is wrong! 14.Rg3 We ain't gonna hurry to overtake the pawn back, but we will focus on the Kingside attack. With a threat of 15. f4! White wants to clear the path away to Re7 sacrifice which comes after f5. Kh8 This is practically the only move for Black which gives him a solid stable position. Black escaped from a possible pin by Rg3 and we can focus now on the other Black weaknesses, despite the fragile-looking Kingside. 15.f4 *(15.Rge3* I see this move as an improvement to 15.f4 which was played in a game between Jaumandreu Llopis, A - Reichgeld, M ICCF email 2019, because with 15. Rge3! White takes full control of the e-file, threatening to play either Nxe6, or Rxe6! After 14...Kh8 , Black's King looks safe, but of course, if you wish to follow the idea of 15.f4 after 15...Ng8 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Rxe6 White has a nice position with an initiative on the Kingside.*)* 15...Ng8 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Rxe6 Bf6 18.Rge3 Qd7 19.Bxf6 Rxf6 20.Rxf6 Reference Games-Jaumandreu Llopis, A]

[12...Ng8 With this very interesting move, Black intends to trade as many pieces as possible and to enter an endgame with a pawn up. Of course, we are not going to allow that, as you will see soon. 13.f4 White defends the Bishop on g5 and keeps the same threat of Bf5! Additionally, Black would be in an uncomfortable situation if he tries to chase the dark-squared Bishop with 13...h6?! due to 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 and after 15.Qg3 White has a double threat of f5, and Qxg7! Of course, if instead, Black plays 13...h6?! 14.Bxe7 Nxe7 White is winning after 15.f5! Bd7 16.f6! and White will dominate all of the dark squares, while the Black King will be locked in the center. Bxg5 Faced with the previously explained threats of Bf5 and Be7, followed by f5, Black is forced to go for 13...Bxg5 14.fxg5 We gained what we wanted! The position is open, and Black's King is still in the center without a proper

plan of development. Of course, the idea of White is the same, Bf5 is the threat that Black needs to stop if he wants to stay alive! Ne7 The most natural follow-up by Black, who defends the previously mentioned threat of Bf5. *(14...h6* Black keeps chasing a pawn and wants to exchange the Queens. With all the centralized pieces, which control all the important squares, White can finally realize the long-prepared plan! *15.Bf5* White accepts to go into an endgame with equalized material, but the huge activity of the pieces, and lots of weaknesses for Black. However, if you insist to avoid an endgame, it is possible to continue with 15.Nxe6!? Nxe6 16.Re5 defending the g5 pawn, and after 16...Qd6 White has initiative after 17. Rde1 , aiming to play against 17...O-O-O with 18.g6! followed by Bf5 and pressure on Black's pinned Knight on e6. *Qxg5+ 16.Qxg5 hxg5 17.b4* This is a very important intermediary move that gives White chances for a win. We do not hurry to take the pawn back since all the exchanges would allow Black to stabilize, but we aim to keep Black's King pinned as long as possible. *Nd7 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Nxe6* And White has a small advantage thanks to active pieces and three threats at the same time: Nc7, Ng7, and Ng5. One shall not forget that Black is unable to go for O-O-O since Ne6 controls the d8 square, and Black still faces difficulties to avoid the pin of Re1. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex*)* 15.Na4 With this incredible move, White puts the pressure on the Black's best defending piece - Nc5, aiming to additionally weakens Bishop on e6. Of course, 15.Na4! should not be considered as a real sacrifice, because White will gain the material back already in the next move. Nxa4 If you have wondered what would happen if Black decides to go for 15... Nxd3 White would activate another Rook on the d-file after 16.Rxd3 and after 16...Qd6 17.Nxe6 fxe6 Black can not defend anymore the e6 pawn, and White will have full control of the e-file. 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Qxa4 And White is slightly better with the idea of Qg4 and Black would not be able to defend the e6 pawn. It should be noticed that the White's Bishop is considered to be better than Black's Knight since the position is open and Black's Knight doesn't have many squares to use. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

13.Bf5 As Black does not threaten the Bishop on g5, White uses some extra time to improve the position of pieces, revealing again the pin coming from the Rook on e1. Nothing can stop us now to continue with the previously mentioned plan of Bf5 and Black needs to think about saving the Bishop on e6. 13...Nfd7 This is maybe the only move for Black that provides a fairly active position. Black's main threat now is Bg5 and the Bishop on e6 looks well defended. White needs to accept the trades which comforts Black as he will gain some space for the pieces. Black shows that he is tough with this move! He defends

the weakened spot on e6 with an attack on the black squared Bishop on g5, threatening to take it with Bg5! Don't forget that 13...O-O?! would face the well-known motive of 14.Bxh6! sacrifice and after 14... gxh6 15.Qxh6 Black has issues defending White's idea of Re3 , followed by Rg3 . Also, 13... Nh7?! instead would lead to a clearly better position for White after 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Qxe7 Kxe7 and with 16.b4! Black needs to step back and the e6 spot will not be defended anymore.

[13...Kd7 Black aims to keep the Bishop on e6 safe and to gain activity. Now Black indeed threatens to take the dark-squared Bishop but White will easily resolve this issue. 14.Bd2 It is a fact that the Queen looks a little clumsy now as it is pinned by Black's Bishop from e7. For this reason, White aims to proceed with Qh3- putting more pressure on the Bishop on e6, but also escaping from the possibly uncomfortable pin. Nfe4 15.Nxe4 I can bet that no one expected this move coming! Although it is very attractive I must admit that it's not maybe the best. Engines admire more the stable 15.Qg4 move, but there is no doubt that 15.Nxe4! makes it more enticing. White uses the badly positioned Black King to grab two pieces and huge activity if Black decides to accept the Queen sacrifice. Nxe4 Black decided not to take risks and tried to keep the King safe. If 15...Bxh4 was played White would be much better after 16.Nxc5 Ke7 with nasty 16...-- 17.Bb4 coming! Black's King would be miserable there. 16.Bxe6+ fxe6 17.Qh3 White now provoked another weakness that is hard to defend. One should not forget that Black's King is still exposed in the center and that opens many options for White! Qg8 18.Rxe4 White uses the opportunity to open the Rook for the d-file, exposing Black's King to a deadly attack. Black needs to accept this sacrifice hoping for the best. dxe4 19.Nxe6 Another tactical engagement for White! Of course, all of these were possible due to the terribly placed Black King. Black did not make many mistakes in this game, but bad pieces allowed White to outplay the opponent without much effort. Ke8 Of course 19...Qxe6 leads to 20.Bf4 and Black loses a Queen. 20.Bc3 White has it all now! It seems that everything hangs in Black's position - Nc7, Nxg7, Bxg7 all those threats are impossible to be defended. Rh7 21.Qf5 It looks that White plays with his opponent now. Black is out of moves and White wants to show complete dominance after this move. Nc7 is now a mate threat! Qf7 22.Nc7+ First the intermediary check and then White will be ready to capture the hanging Rook! Kf8 23.Qxh7 Rc8 24.Bxg7+ Beautiful ending of the beautiful game! Another sacrifice that Black needs to accept and then it will be definitely game over after 24...Qxg7 25.Ne6! Model Games-Hausner,I]

14.Bxe7 White is obviously forced to go for a trade, but of course, we will keep the Queens on the board with compensation for the pawn thanks to the active pieces! 14...Qxe7

15.Qg4 White steps back and avoids the Queen exchange. The main idea is now to advance with b4, where White will aim to take full control of the light squares. Of course, the attack on the Kingside can be improved by Re3, followed by Re1 and Rg3, and White will have a nice compensation for the pawn. The engines are not delighted to evaluate this position in favor of White, but in practice, White has better chances as it is very hard for Black to follow the only defending moves that hold the balance. All of this up to this point has been already analyzed in the main course. White steps back and avoids the Queen exchange, and with the idea of b4, White wants to take full control over the light squares. Of course, the attack on the Kingside can be improved by Re3, followed by Re1 and Rg3, and White has nice compensation for a pawn as it can be seen in the game between Bauer, R - Grabliauskas, V ICCF email 2014. Although the engines are not delighted to evaluate this position in favor of White, I would say that according to my long chess coaching experience, this position is hard to be defended by a human in a real game, and that in real chess without engines, White has nice chances for the desirable result 1-0! 15...0-0 Black slides the King onto the kingside, but White keeps active play thanks to the previously mentioned 16.b4! 16.b4 Nf6 This is the only way for Black to save the game and equalize the position. As it will be shown in the game, Black hopes for the perpetual check as the only defense of the forthcoming Kingside attack. 17.Qh4 Nce4 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Nxe6 White needs to accept the trades as Black could gain counterplay if we are stubborn to continue attacking. 19.Bxe4?! instead gives very good play to Black after 19... Qxb4 . White cannot take risks here and we must be satisfied with a draw. In addition to this game and line, I would like to mention that in my long experience with the Bishop opening I have never faced this almost forced draw line. 19...Qxb4 20.Nxf8 Qa3+ And Black ends the game with a perpetual check that White cannot avoid. 21.Kb1 Qb4+ Reference Games-Bauer,R

[65] **7.Qd3** Be7 8.a3 d6 9.Bf4 0-0 10.0-0-0 Ng4 11.Bg3 Nce5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 dxe5 14.Qe2 Bd6 15.h4 Bd7 16.Bd5 Rb8 17.Ne4 Qe7 18.Kb1 Be6 19.h5 h6 20.g4 Bxd5 21.Rxd5 Reference Games-Tomek,D

[66] **7...Bb4** This move by Black deserves attention since they threaten to take on c3 doubling the pawns our pawns. Anyway, this exchange would not give only a weakness to White, but also the Bishop pair which is very valuable in open positions such as this one. 8.0-0 White is concluding the development and threatening Re1+, not worrying a lot about Bc3 exchange, since the Bishop pair would be a nice weapon to gain. 8...Bxc3 9.bxc3 With the Bishop pair and development advantage, White

for sure has compensation for the pawn. After Re1, Bg5, Rad1, Black will be stuck trying to find a plan while White has all of the pieces activated. 9...0-0 10.Bg5 [10.Re1 White has a lot of options here. With the interesting 10.Re1!? we prepare for Bg5 and Rad1. However, also 10.Rb1!? could be played with initiative and plan of Re1, Bd3, Bg5, or 10.Bg5!? when after 10...h6 Black gets into problems after 11.Bxh6 gxh6 12.Qxh6 with nice play for White, as it was played in a game between Nightingale, D - Serazeev, A ICCF email 2013. Ne7 Black's idea is to swing the Knight from e7 to g6, giving a support to its King and giving an attack to the Qh4. 11.Bg5 Meanwhile, White continues with development and activates the Bishop pair. Ng6 12.Qg3 We put the Queen into safety and we will continue with the activation of the pieces. It is already obvious that Black has difficulties with development and how to find a proper plan to continue. d6 Basically, this is the only continuation for Black with the idea of Bd7, Bc7, Qd7, and consolidation. However, that plan can not be realized easily. 13.Rab1 Putting the last piece into a game, White takes control of the b7-square and does not allow Black to develop. With two rooks on the open files, Bishop pair, and the idea of h4 and h5 at some moment, White has a nice position to play and a well-looking initiative. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex] 10...h6 11.Bxh6 gxh6 12.Qxh6 d5 13.Rad1 Re8 14.Bd3 Ng4 15.Qh7+ Kf8 16.Qh8+ Ke7 17.Rfe1+ Be6 18.Qh3 Nf6 19.Bf5 Rh8 20.Nh4 Qg8 21.c4 d4 22.Ng6+ fxg6 23.Qa3+ Kd8 24.Bxe6 Qf8 25.Qg3 Qd6 26.f4 Re8 27.c5 Qxc5 28.Qxg6 Qf8 29.Qg5 a5 30.Re5 Re7 31.Rd5+ Reference Games-Nightingale,D

7...Ne7 Black aims to relocate the Knight to the Kingside with the idea to create a safe environment for the King. At the same time, Black wants to hunt White's Queen and move it away from the h4 square. However, White will now punish Black's repeated moves with the same piece in the opening. 8.Bg5 In order to gain the advantage against Black's slow action, White keeps developing and wishes to castle long as soon as possible. One shall not forget that after O-O-O, White will have only one piece undeveloped, which will be activated after Rhe1, but Black will be jammed. 8...Ng6 Black successfully concluded the idea of relocation with an attack on our Queen, but it is questionable how much did he benefit from this maneuver. 9.Qd4 White puts the Queen back, on the most active available square. The idea stays the same, fast O-O-O followed by Rhe1 which would put Black into trouble. 9...c6 Black picks up the resilient move with the idea of d5 which would block our light-squared Bishop. Anyway, it is obvious that Black is late with development, and White needs to use that to create an attack. 10.0-0-0 Certainly, we can be satisfied with White's position here. With all active pieces and

forthcoming Rhe1, it is clear that White will have more than enough compensation for a pawn. 10...Be7 Black wishes to castle and to avoid any checks on the open e-file. If 10...d5?! was played instead, White would have a huge initiative after 11.Nxd5! cxd5 12.Bb5 when Black is forced to play 12...Bd7 and after 13.Rhe1 Be7 14.Bxf6 O-O 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 White is clearly better with 16.Bd3! and the idea of 17.Bxh7! Black has an isolated d5 pawn, lone King, and needs to find a way to prevent the Bxh7 threat. 11.Bxf6 This is a very good move which forces Black to once again delay castling. Although White gives up the Bishop pair, one should not forget that Black will have an outpost on d6 which can be easily conquered by White. 11...Bxf6 It is clear that Black wouldn't resolve the problem after 11...gxf6 due to 12.Rhe1! and huge development advantage for White. 12.Rhe1+ With this very important intermediate check, we force Black to once again take a step back. 12...Ne7 This is practically the only move for Black, since 12...Be7? doesn't work because of hanging g7 pawn. On the other hand, 12...Kf8 would be met with 13.Qc5! and after 13...Be7 White takes it all with 14.Rd6!! Bxd6 15.Qxd6 Kg8 and after 16.h4 , the threat of Ng5 , White is winning. Mainly, Black can not defend weakened f7 square, and it looks impossible to develop Bc8, Ra8 and Rh8. 13.Qc5 Once again, White chooses the most active square for the Queen, putting Black into development problems. The plan is Rd6, stopping Black from unchaining the pieces, followed by Ne4, Re3, and Black will have lots of difficulties getting the pieces out. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex

7...d5 This is one of the most critical variations in the Urusov Gambit accepted! Even though it leads to, according to the engine, a tiny bit better game for White, objectively chances are roughly equal in practice. Black decides to take central control and to open the light-squared Bishop and at the same time, blocks Bc4 from attacking the weakened f7-weakened pawn. 8.Nxd5 It is already clear that Qh4 would do a great job now since it pins Black's Qd8! 8...Nxd5 9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.Bxd5 After exchanges, White has reached a solid position with two active pieces controlling the center. Although engines evaluate this position as a tiny bit better for White due to ideas such as Bf4, O-O, and including Rooks into the game with Rfe1 and Rad1, in practice, I believe that the advantage is a lot more substantial. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex

67 **8...0-0** Even though 8...O-O?! looks like a solid development move for Black, it is considered suspicious since Black is doing exactly what we want! They castle on the side where our Queen on h4 and Bishop on g5 control things, and White will be able to start an attack soon!

White's idea is very simple, after O-O-O and the development of the other Rook with Rhe1, Bd3 comes with a crushing attack on the h7-weakness. 9.0-0-0 White concludes the development and prepares for the butchering! 9...d6 Even though the 9... O-O? looks like a natural development move, it can be harshly punished by White thanks to active pieces eyeing the Black's King!

[9...Re8 Black tries to stay quiet and develops the pieces. However, it is too late for development since White got all the control! 10.Rhe1 Despite that White includes the last piece in the game, we threaten to execute the beauty 11.Re7! followed by Nd5! d6 Black did not have a lot of choices but to surrender the dark-squares control for White. 11.Re7! is coming! 11.Rxe7 Qxe7 Black only delays the loss. If 11...Rxe7 was played instead, White wins after 12.Bd3 threatening Qh7# which can hardly be defended. Also, if Black accepts the sacrifice with 11...Nxe7 they immediately go into a losing position after 12.Bxf6 gxf6 and 13.Ne4! and the threat of Nxf6 followed by Qh7 can not be defended anymore. 12.Nd5 Black is so pinned that they struggle to even fight for a breath! One shall not forget that there is also a threat of Re1 by White, which would expose Black's weak back rank. Qe4 Black grabs the last straw of salvation, but there is no hope due to the previously mentioned threat of Re1! 13.Nxf6+ A very important intermediate move with check which leaves Rook on e8 undefended and prepares for the upcoming Re1! gxf6 14.Re1 And the game is practically over after 14...Qxh4 15.Rxe8 comes with a check and White gets the position with a clear piece up after 15...Kg7 16. Bxh4 . 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

[9...Ne8 With this move Black tries to exchange as many pieces as possible, wishing to enter an endgame with a pawn up. 10.Rhe1 We finished development and after this move, Black is forced to move the Bishop from e7. Practically, Black is forced to remove the black squared Bishops and to relocate our Knight from f3 to a beautiful attacking position of g5. Bxg5+ 11.Nxg5 As it was previously mentioned, Black was forced to relocate our Knight to attacking the g5-square. White threatens Qh7# and at the same time takes a control of the f7-weakened square. h6 Black puts the last hopes to exchange the Queens after an attack on the Knight. However, something else is coming! 12.f4 This is a critical position where White needs to continue with an attack. Exchange of Queens is unacceptable and 12.f4! is the only way for White to keep the advantage. Due to Black's badly positioned pieces on the back rank, White takes an opportunity to sacrifice a piece and open the h-file for the Queen with lots of mate threats. hxg5 Although it looks that White has no particular winning continuation, 12...hxg5? is a bad choice for Black due to 13.fxg5 and the idea of Rd3 followed by Rh3. White will have full control of the h-file and obvious mate threats, while Black still has difficulties to develop and

defend. If Black decides to go with 12...d6 13.Qh5 would come with an attack on the f7-spot, and after 13... Nf6 14.Nxf7! Nxh5 15.Nxd8 Kh8 16. Nxc6 bxc6 17.g3 White would have a clear advantage and a nicer endgame due to Black's doubled c7 and c6 pawns, and lone a7 weakness. 13.fxg5 And White is much better with the idea of Rd3 followed by Rh3. Don't lose your hopes for an attack after Black's most probable answer 13...d6 since after 14.g4! you have the same threat of Rd3 and Rh3 which can not be defended by Black anymore! 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

[9...h6 10.Bxh6 gxh6 11.Qxh6 Transposes into 8...h6?! 10.O-O O-O? 11.Bh6! gxh6 12.Qxh6 when White is clearly better with the idea of Bd3, followed by Nd5 or Ng5. Black can hardly defend the mate. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

10.Bd3 A very important move which gives a headache to the Black side. With a simple threat of Bf6, White wants to mate with Qh7! 10...h6

[10...g6 This is the only defense from the mate threat, but now Black has weak dark squares around the King. Have in mind that 10...h6?! in such positions always faces 11.Bxh6! gxh6 12.Qxh6 and White is winning with the idea of Nd5 which would attack Black's Nf6 defender. Black can not defend against the Qh7 mate, or he needs to give up the material. 11.Rhe1 White starts to pressure dark squares on the Black's side. With a threat of Re7, followed by Bf6, Black would not be able to defend mate after Qh6 and Qg7. Black is practically forced to play the only defending moves now. Be6 At the same time, Black develops and blocks the previously mentioned idea of Re7. 12.g4 I recently came up with this novelty which appeared to be undefendable by Black. White threatens Bf5, compromising Black's blocker on the e-file. Practically, the idea is to force Black to open e-file and to give us the possibility to gain the dark-squares after Rxe7 followed by Bxf6! Transposes into 8...d6 9. 0-0-0 0-0?! 11.Bd3 Be6 12. g4! with idea of Bf5, followed by Re7! Bxg4 This is not the happiest answer for Black, but other options would not help him a lot. If he plays 12...Nxg4? instead, White wins after 13.Rxe6! followed by Qg4 and two pieces for the Rook, which is considered to be a material advantage. 12...Re8 would face previously mentioned 13.Bf5! and White again forces Black to clears the way for Re7 motive! 13.Rxe7 And finally White takes the full control of the dark squares. However Black decides to continue, he would not be able to defend after Bf6 with ideas of Qh6-Qg7#. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3... ex]

11.Bxh6 Transposes into 8... h6?! 10.O-O-O O-O? 11.Bh6! gxh6 12.Qxh6, followed by Bd3 and the threat of Ng5, Nd5. 11...gxh6 12.Qxh6 Not only that White threatens Nd5 to move Nf6 away and give mate with Qh7, but White also takes control of the very important b1-h7 diagonal, not allowing Black's light-

squared Bishop to develop and conquer it. 12...Ne5 Black tries to chase the Bishop on d3 which controls all the weakened light-squares around Black's King. In the game between Neishtadt, Y-NN Soviet Union 1950, Black tried to strike back with 12...Nb4 attacking the light-squared Bishop killer, but after 13.Ng5! threatening Bh7, and thereafter 14...Nxd3 14.Rxd3 Bf5 15.Rg3 Bg6 White is winning with 16.Ne6! threatening both Qg7# and to put Black into position with Queen down after Nd8.

[12...Nb4 13.Ng5 Nxd3+ 14.Rxd3 Bf5 15.Rg3 Bg6 16.Ne6 Reference Games-Yakov Isaevich Neishtadt vs. N]

13.Nxe5 dxe5 14.Rhe1 After the exchange of the Knights, White opened the d-file for the Rook, but you should not hurry with 14.Bh7? since that would be a huge mistake giving an advantage to Black after 14...Nxh7 15.Rxd8 Bg5! and Black takes the Queen back with a piece up. With 14.Rhe1 White has a simple plan of swinging the Rook on the g-file after Re5-Rg5 or Re3-Rg3. 14...Qd4 Black cunningly defends the e5 pawn and stops the threat of Re3-Rg3 due to the Qf4-idea. 15.Re4 A stunning move that takes all the hopes away from Black! Black is forced to accept the sacrifice due to a threat of Rh4 with Qh8#! 15...Nxe4 16.Bxe4 And with a double attack on the Queen and mate threat of Qh7, White is easily winning since Black is forced to go into a position with a Queen down 16...Qxe4 17.Nxe4 as it was shown in the game between Odnorozhenko, E - Kuzmenko, V Krasnograd 2018. 1-0 16...Qxe4 17.Nxe4 Bf5 18.Rd3 Bxe4 19.Rh3 f6 20.Qh5 Rfe8 21.Qg4+ Kf7 22.Qxe4 Reference Games-Odnorozhenko,E

8...d5 Black tries to get some fresh air for the pieces and to consolidate after 9...Be6 . Anyway, one should not forget that White will have now a new target for attacks, and that is exactly d5 pawn! 9.0-0-0 White defends the Bishop on c4 with the most active move, castling! Black is now forced to think about the defense of d5 weakened pawn! 9...Be6 It looks like that after 9...Be6 Black got stabilized, but the activity of White's pieces allows us to proceed with an aggressive approach! 10.Nxd5 Nxd5 11.Bxd5 Bxd5 12.c4 And as it was said, White uses the advantage of good development and active pieces to equalize the material and keep the activity, after this little tactical blow. 12...f6 Black simply wants to block the attack on the Bishop on e7 and attacks Bg5. However, they can not escape from the pin with Rd1.

[12...Bxg5+ 13.Nxg5 Of course, White takes the piece with a Knight and declines the offer to exchange the Queens. One shall not forget that Black still needs to deal with the pinned Bishop on d5, and that after Rxd5 White will have another active piece that joined the attack. Qf6 Black decides to move the Queen away from the upcoming Rd5. If Black plays 13...h6 instead, aiming to take the Knight on g5 with a Queen,

White has an important intermediate move 14.Rhe1 which comes with a check, and after 14...Kf8 15.Rxd5 Qf6 White is clearly better with 16. Re3! threatening to play Rf3 with an attack on f7 weakness. On the other side, Black can go for 13...Qe7 escaping the forthcoming attack of Rd5, but then White keeps the clear advantage with 14.cxd5 Ne5 , followed by 15.Qa4! and the idea of Rhe1. 14.Rxd5 With pieces positioned in the center and a huge pressure on Black, White threatens to play Re1. Black has problems putting the King in a safe zone, due to a weakened h7 pawn fully controlled by White. h6 15.Re1+ After this check Black can forget about putting the King in a safe zone and the Rook from h8 will hardly get active. Kf8 16.Re3 And White is clearly better with a threat of Rf3 which puts pressure on the f7 weakness. Black is too inactive and can not unchain for a while, and the Rook on h8 does not have a bright future. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

[12...h6 You should notice that Black does not threaten to immediately take the Bishop on g5 with a pawn, but he aims to gain the material after Bxg5, Nxg5 and Qxg5 ! 13.Rxd5 White equalizes the material and gives support to hanging Bishop on g5, aiming to continue actively with Re1, which would put Black into an uncomfortable pin. Bxg5+ 14.Rxg5 This is a very important move which gives Black difficulties to decide how to continue. Due to pinned Rook on h8 , Black can not proceed with 14... hxg5? and he is forced to think about how to keep the King safe which is stuck in the center. However, the alternative for White can be 14.Nxg5 , when after 14...Qf6?! Black faces 15. Re1 Ne7? when White takes control after 16.Nf3 Rd8 17.Rde5 Rd7 18. Qg4 threatening Re7 ! Qf6 This is practically the only move that gives Black equal chances for a play. 14...O-O? would be met with 15. Qxh6! so Black needs to search for the development of the King on the Queenside. 15.Qe4+ Qe7 16.Rg4 White accepts to enter objectively drawish endgame, but with better-positioned pieces. It must be said that a tiny activity advantage is not for sure granted of a victory, but with pressure on the open files, it can be possible for White to win the game. I want to mention that engines suggest for White 16.Qxe7 evaluating the position around equal, and after 16... Nxe7 17.Rg4 is recommended. However, I think that in practical chess, White has more chances for a win with a human move such as 16.Rg4 . If Black insists on entering an endgame now, due to the hanging g7-pawn, White would gain two open files for the Rooks and a more active position. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

13.Rxd5 Not only that White equalized the material with a tempo attack on Black's Queen, but also improved the position of the Rook which can be included in an attack on the Black's King which is still positioned in the center! 13...Qc8 14.Bd2 White steps back and gets prepared for the further development with Re1. 14...0-0

15.Rh5 The centralized rook swings to the Kingside and White attacks h7. Black would be forced to weaken the light-squares around the King which would be conquered by White after Qg3 and upcoming development moves, such as Re1. White is clearly better, with ideas of the forthcoming action can be seen in the game between Amann,K-Contreras Poblete,J LSS email 2006. 15...Qe8 16.Rxh7 Qg6 17.Rh8+ Kf7 18.Rxf8+ Rxf8 19.Qg3 Qe4 20.Qxc7 Qxc4+ 21.Kb1 Rd8 22.Rc1 Qb5 23.Qf4 Qd3+ 24.Ka1 Bd6 25.Qh4 Bc7 26.Be3 Bb6 27.Bxb6 axb6 28.Qf4 Kg8 29.a3 b5 30.Qe3 Qxe3 31.fxe3 b4 32.a4 b3 33.Kb1 Rd3 34.Re1 Nb4 35.Kc1 Na2+ 36.Kb1 Nb4 37.Kc1 Reference Games-Amann, K

[68] **9...h6** Although it looks that Black wants to force Bishop on g5 to move away, this move is actually a bad one, because Black threatens nothing! One shall not forget that Qh4 pins the Rook on h8, so hxg5 is not a real threat. 10.Rhe1 White includes the last piece into the game and pins Black's King while threatening Bf6. 10...0-0 11.Bxh6 Black was forced to escape from the pin and castle, but now faces an even more dangerous position. White is clearly better with a huge attack on the Kingside. If Black accepts the sacrifice with 11...gxh6 White has a simple plan after 12.Qxh6 with an idea to play Ng5, followed by Qg6 and an undefendable attack on f7 . 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex

9...Bf5 Although Black aims to prevent the idea of 10.Bd3, giving support to his King and h7-square, 9...Bf5?! is considered as a suspicious move due to new options appearing on the Kingside. 10.Rhe1 With all pieces actively developed White is ready for action! 10...0-0 11.g4 White starts to punish Black's decision to go for 9...Bf5?! With this very important move, White opens the Kingside and the dream of an attack on the Black's King becomes true. 11...Bg6 This the only move which leaves Black alive for a while. If Black chooses 11...Be6? instead, he would face 12.Rxe6! fxe6 13.Bxe6 and after 13...Kh8 White is winning with 14.Bf5! with a threat of Bf6 followed by Qh7#. One shall not forget that Black is also not able to take the g4-pawn with 11...Bxg4 due to 12.Bxf6 Bxf3 13.Rxe7 and the idea of Qg4 threatening mate with Qg7 , White is winning. 12.Qg3 A very important prophylactic move that leaves h4 square for Knight maneuver or even pawn storm attack with h4-h5 and Black's Bishop on g6 will have issues to escape. 12...h6 At the same time, Black wants to kick out our Bishop from g5 and makes a safe spot for his light-squared Bishop. 13.Be3 After a tiny step back, White will be back into a game very soon with the idea of h4 and Rg1, followed by an attack on the weak Black's King. With very active pieces controlling the center, White has nice initiative and a position to be played with

pleasure. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex

10.Rhe1 Maybe you will be able to see also Bd3 as White's answer against Be6, but I have no doubt that 10.Rhe1! is the best move here. With 10.Rhe1! White achieved what they always wanted - full development and great activity of all of the pieces. Of course, Black is now forced to react since the threat is to take a pawn by Bxe6. 10...Bxc4 This is the only move that gives hope to Black. If Black decided to go for 10...Qd7?! instead, 11.Bb5! would put Black in an uncomfortable pin due to the Ne5 threat and White would be clearly better. 11.Qxc4 0-0 12.Bxf6 This is a key moment in the variation! A lot of players CC StartBracket CC with both colors CC EndBracket CC wouldn't even think about this move as a good option, but they are clearly mistaken! In order to treat the line properly, it is important to understand White's idea which comes after every different exchange. With Bxf6 White attempts to create space for the Knights, which will be reaching an outpost at d5 with direct Nd5, and another one at e4, after a maneuver like Kb1-Nd2-Ne4. 12...Bxf6 13.Nd5 White goes for the previously mentioned plan, keeps the King safe on b1 square, and prepares for Nd2 with Ne4, at the same time avoiding the pin which would possibly be achieved by Black after Bg5. 13...g6 This is a very good prophylactic move by Black who is now basically stoping the idea of Kb1, Nd2 and Ne4. However, with g6 Black gave another target to be attacked.

[13...Rc8 Black prepares for Ne5, since the immediate 13...Ne5 would lead to a losing position for Black after 14.Qxc7 . Although there is no material advantage, Black's pawn on d6 wouldn't be able to resist the incoming attacks. 14.Kb1 White puts the King in a safe zone, avoiding any uncomfortable checks and waits for Black to decide how to continue. Ne5 15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.Qg4 White uses every opportunity to punish passive moves made by Black. The threat is Qc8 followed by Ne7, which would lead to a material advantage for White and an easily winning position. Re8 Black defends the threat of Qc8 by protecting the e7 square, but now he faces a different kind of trouble! 17.f4 Forcing Black to step back with a Bishop and be exposed to a Knight attack! Bf6 18.Rxe8+ Qxe8 19.Nxf6+ and White practically forced Black to slide into a losing position with a whole Queen down! 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

[13...a6 Due to a lack of ideas Black can also play some quiet moves such as a6. To better understand why Black has problems deciding what to play, I would like to mention that 13...Qd7 would be met with 14.Nxf6 doubling Black's pawns on the Kingside, while 13...Re8 would lead to a winning position for White after 14.Rxe8 Qxe8 15.Nxc7 and double attack on the Queen and Rook. 14.Kb1

I am assured that you are familiar with this prophylactic move by White. Not only that White slides the King into a safe zone avoiding any possible checks and pins on the Black squares but also gives an opportunity to Black to decide how to continue and accordingly, White would create a proper plan. Rc8 Black prepares Ne5, since it couldn't be played before due to c7 hanging. 15.g3 Although this might look to you as a passive move by White, it actually stops the Black's idea of Ne5, since f4 would be possible after the Knights exchange. Kh8 Once again, Black has problems deciding how to continue although he has a material advantage. If Black chose to go for 15...Ne5 after the exchange 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.f4 would give an advantage to White with the idea of Qb4 putting Black's Queenside pawns in trouble. 16.h4 While White prepares an attack on the King, Black once again needs to decide how to answer. h6 If you consider 16...Re8 17.Rxe8 Qxe8 18.Nxf6 instead, or 16...Qd7 17.Nxf6 gxf6 it is obvious that Black didn't have many other options but to wait for a slow and painful death. 17.g4 This is an improvement over the 17.Qe4 which was played in a game between Korzh, A-Novikov, A ICCF email 2014. The idea of White is pretty obvious, g5 is coming! Bxh4 18.Rh1 I suppose that you already got used to sacrifices in an aggressive opening as the Urusov Gambit is. While Black takes another pawn, White activates pieces and starts to open the space around the Black's King. Bg5 Practically the only way for Black to block the upcoming g4 and opening of h-file. 19.Qc3 After this nice prophylactic move White is much better. Putting the Black's King into a pin, White at the same time threatens Ng5, followed by f4, Rdg1, and Rh6! 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex]

14.c3

[14.h4 White is set to storm with a pawn! With the idea of h5, White threatens to open the space around Black's weakened King. As an alternative, 14.c3 was played in a game between Burkett, M - Helmbrecht, J LSS email 2010, where White had an idea to play against dark-squared Black's Bishop. 14... Bg7 15.h4! threatening h5, Black answered with 15...Qd7 with an idea of Rae8, and the game continued with 16.h5 Rac8 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.Qh4 with great initiative and attack for White, and the idea of Ng5 and Rh1. h6 Black tries to block White's attack and wants to play g5 if White continues with the idea of h5. However, that would make new outposts on the light squares for the White's pieces. If Black decides to block White's attack with 14...h5? he faces 15.g4! which puts Black's King into an uncomfortable situation. 15.h5 White goes further with the idea to open the space around Black's King. As an alternative, White can also go for 15.g4! and after 15...Bg7 16.g5 h5 17.Kb1 White puts the King into safety and has decent initiative. g5 After 15.h5! Black is forced to try to block the Kingside. 16.Nh2 This is a very important move with the idea of Ng4, threatening black

squares around Black's King, and opening space up for the upcoming f4 which weakens the pawn structure around the Black's King. Bg7 Black escapes from the attack of possible Ng4 and tries to surround the weakened King with a defending piece. In a few games, I saw that Black has played 16...Kh8 and after 17.f4! gxf4 White is slightly better with 18.Nxf4! - pawn on f4 is hanging and White has a simple plan of Kb1 and c3 which blocks black squared Bg7. 17.f4 White keeps an attack on Black's bad pawn structure. A simple idea of the further action is Kb1- a very important move that puts King in a safe zone from where it avoids any checks from the dark squares, followed by g4 and Nf3. gxf4 18.Qxf4 White has very nice initiative and compensation for a pawn. With the newest h6 weakness, which will be easily targeted with the upcoming Ng4, White has a plan to go for Re3-Rg3, or Rf1 eyeing f7 weakness. One shall not forget that the Knight on d5 stands very proud in the center CC StartBracket CC takes quite a big space CC EndBracket CC, pressures the c7 pawn CC StartBracket CC which turns out to be a weakness for the rest of the game CC EndBracket CC and Black can not move it out of there that just like that! 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3... ex]
14...Bg7 15.h4 Qd7 16.h5 Rac8 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.Qh4 Qf5 19.Ne3 Qh5 20.Qxh5 gxh5 21.Kc2 Rfe8 22.Rh1 Ne5 23.Rxh5 Nxf3 24.gxf3 Re5 25.Rh4 Rce8 26.Rc4 Rc5 27.Rxc5 dxc5 28.Rd7 Be5 29.Nd5 Kg7 30.Nxc7 Bxc7 31.Rxc7 Re2+ 32.Kb3 b6 33.a4 Rxf2 34.Rxa7 Rxf3 35.Rb7 Rf6 36.Kc4 Kf8 37.Kb5 Rf2 38.b4 cxb4 39.cxb4 f5 40.Kxb6 f4 41.a5 f3 42.a6 Ra2 43.Rh7 f2 44.Rh1 Ke7 45.Rf1 Reference Games-Burkett, M

[69] **6...Nc6** Although it looks that Black develops the piece with a tempo and that White needs to step back with the Queen, the idea of the Nc6 move is different. Black simply tries to defend the King from the upcoming Re1 by covering it with a Knight! 7.Re1+ In a position with such a development advantage and many active pieces, White shall not even think about getting back with the pieces! 7...Ne7 It is pretty obvious that this is the only move for Black to defend. If 7...Be7? was played instead White easily wins after 8.Qxg7 Rf8 9.Bh6! with the undefendable threat of Qf8! 8.Bb3 Despite saving the most important piece of Urusov gambit - Bc4 - with this move White is turning a ball to Black. Black is in a lot of trouble deciding how to continue and we can enjoy while our opponent suffers! It is not clear how Ng5 or Ne5 threats can be defended. It is worth mentioning how I defeated a GM in the Online Blitz game after a very tricky 8. Ng5?! h6 9.Qxd6!! threatening Bf7 mate, and after 9...hxg5 Black could not defend mate due to 10. Qd5! Although, 8.Bb3 leads to a winning position without a chance for Black to save their soul. 8...f6 Black gives a desperate try to

defend but only makes new light-squares weaknesses. If 8...h6 was played instead Black would face issues after 9.Ne5 and threat of Qd6 followed by Bf7 mate! 9.Nc3 White is much better after this final touch which includes another piece into the game. Black went out of moves due to cruel pins and doesn't have many options to continue. White's plan is simple Bf4 followed by Qd5 and Qf7 mate threat. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex

6...Qf6 One may think that it is a good decision for Black to try to exchange pieces as soon as possible and to escape from an attack, but that ain't gonna work easily. 7.Re1+ Once again we develop with a check, putting Black into the uncomfortable pin and at the same time, we delay the decision whether we are going to exchange Queens or not. 7...Be7 8.Qd1 With much better development and the active threat of Bg5, we choose not to exchange Queens and simply go back to the starting square where the Queen can not be exposed to any attacks. Besides the obvious threat of Bg5, White wants to continue with Qe2, stopping Black to castle and finally Nc3- followed by Nd5. White is much better and with Black's miserable pieces placed on the back rank, Black can only dream about striking back. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3...ex

6...f6 I saw this idea by Black in a game I would recommend you to check: Knorr, B - Schmidt, H Germany 1989. Black played this move in a desperate attempt to defend exposed g7 weakness, but with poor development could not find an escape from harsh attack! 7.Re1+ While Black has only one piece properly developed, we don't want to lose time by stepping back. With Re1 not only that we develop one more piece with tempo, but we force Black to make more weaknesses. 7...Be7 8.Qg4 White forced Black to leave g7 square undefended and went for it! One should not forget that Black's King can not escape and castle due to Bc4! 8...Nxc4 9.Qxg7 With much better development and the upcoming threat of Bh6, White uses the opportunity to sharpen things. Although the white squared killer was sacrificed, Black can not control the outposts of the black squares. 9...Rf8 10.Bh6 Due to the pinned centralized King, White has a direct mate threat of Qf8 which is very uncomfortable. If Black wants to stay alive for a little bit more, he must play the only moves! 10...Ne5 This is the only move for the Black side to stop the threat of Qf8. However, this is just prolonging the punishment. 11.Nxe5 With a beautiful threat of Ng6 followed by Qf8, Black's having a headache to defend. 11...fxe5 12.Rxe5 The very same threat of Qf8 is appearing all the time! It's obvious that it can not be defended anymore. 12...d6 13.Qxf8+ And White is easily winning with the forthcoming 14.Qxd8, going into

an endgame with clear exchange and pawn up. However, in the game between Knorr, B - Schmidt, H, Germany 1989, White decided to make a joke of his opponent: 13... Kd7 15.Qf5+ Ke8 16.Rxe7+ If Black chose to play 16...Kxe7 instead, he would be facing 16.Bg5 and after 16...Ke8 White wins with 17.Qe4 , since Black cannot defend the Queen anymore. The game continued with 13...Kd7 15. Qf5+ Ke8 16.Rxe7+ Qxe7 17. Qxc8 Kf7 18.Nc3 and White is completely winning with a clear piece up. Additionally, Black can not include the Rook and the Knight in a game. 4) The Wild Alternative: The U-Urusov Gambit Accepted: 3... ex

70 Game over! There is no way to defend against the tremendous threat of Qxf8#! All of White's pieces are perfectly placed on the board, and Black can only resign here, as it happened in this game. The trainable variation can be found here. This beautiful position with the undefendable threat of Qf8 came out of the game between Polzin,R -Fritzsche,H Berlin 1996. Game over after only 9 moves of play! Until today, in this position, altogether with my students, we have won more than 20 games! Welcome to 'TheButcher club' fellas! Line Reference Games- Polzin,Rainer vs. Fritzsche